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THE TIMES

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Major says minister need not quit

Baker guilty of contempt in asylum case

BY RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Baker yesterday rejected calls for Kenneth Baker's resignation after the home secretary became the first government minister to be found guilty of contempt of court.

Mr Baker, who has survived a series of damaging mishaps during his tenure at the Home Office, was found personally at fault by the Court of Appeal for his handling of the deportation of a Zairean teacher seeking asylum in Britain.

In the summer his resignation was demanded after two IRA suspects escaped from Brixton prison, in south London, and his initial failure to act over joy-riding and his handling of the dangerous dogs legislation also drew widespread criticism.

Opposition MPs seized on yesterday's ruling and called for him to quit. But the prime minister, on a visit to Newbury, Berkshire, brushed aside the demands. "No,"

Mr Major insisted, "he will not have to resign." Mr Baker's political embarrassment began when the Court of Appeal found him guilty of contempt for his failure to stop the deportation of the asylum seeker, referred to as "M", despite a judge's order. Three judges, led by Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, decided by a 2-1 majority that "ministers and civil servants are accountable to the law and to the courts for their personal actions".

They ruled that Mr Baker was in contempt "by reason of his personal decision" on May 2 to cancel the return flight to the United Kingdom of "M", aged 28, even though a High Court judge had ordered a stay on his removal. Lord Donaldson strongly criticised the Home Office for failing to stop the teacher being flown out of Heathrow after it had been given a court undertaking that he would not be removed from the country. The judge said he

did not regard what occurred "as reflecting any credit whatsoever upon the Home Office." There should have been established lines of communication enabling the Home Office to cancel the departure of would-be immigrants in their custody at the shortest possible notice before take-off, he said. "It is a disgrace if there were not. If there were, it is a disgrace they were not used."

Lord Donaldson said that Mr Baker's culpability fell at the lower end of the scale as he had no advance knowledge of the court order requiring "M" to be returned. He had been wrongly advised by lawyers that the order was made without jurisdiction and could be treated as a nullity.

Although an order for costs was made against Mr Baker personally, the Home Office later said it would pay them. After the ruling, Mr Baker said: "I note the court said that I acted on legal advice from the Home Office and also from Treasury counsel and that I was not in defiance of the court and I did not place myself above the law."

The home secretary said he had been given leave to appeal and his legal advisers were considering the matter. It is understood that he might make a Commons statement on Monday if it can be done without prejudicing an appeal.

As MPs demanded his resignation yesterday, Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said on BBC Radio that if Mr Baker continued in "this sleepwalking way", he would have to go.

"It is another example of clear chaos within the Home Office. The Home Office does not seem to be under any control," he said. "The home secretary does not have a grip on his department or a grasp of his brief. Add this to the chaos over Brixton, the chaos over dangerous dogs, the failure to act initially over so-called joy-riding, and it is pretty clear we have a home secretary almost indistinguishable from not having a home secretary at all."

In August, Mr Baker admitted that he had considered resigning after Judge Stephen Tumm's scathing report on the Brixton affair. Last night senior Home Office sources said he had no intention of stepping down.

Asylum dispute, page 2
Leading article, page 13



Murder scene: Monica King at the spot where her husband was stabbed

Father tells suspect in police killing to give up

BY STEWART TENDLER AND PETER VICTOR

THE father of the man suspected of killing police sergeant Alan King in east London on Thursday night appealed to his son yesterday to give himself up.

Ronald Grenfell appealed to his son, Peter, aged 28, who is believed to be armed with a handgun. Police say he may be extremely dangerous. About 14 hours after Mr King was repeatedly stabbed at night, two policemen were stabbed in a second incident. One man was arrested and a knife recovered, but a second man fled.

Mr King, married with two

children and two stepchildren, was patrolling alone when he was attacked just after 1am and was left wounded in the head, neck and chest, close to the junction of Higham Hill Road and Mayfield Road in Walthamstow.

The second incident took place at 3pm, when two officers were attacked as they approached two men in a car at the junction of Upton Road and Burlington Road, near Croydon, south London. The officers were seriously injured and taken to Mayday hospital, Croydon, where one was

operated on. The two officers were named last night as PC John Jenkinson, aged 25 and married, and PC Simon Castray, aged 26.

A man was arrested later in gardens near by and was being questioned by police last night.

Mr King was on a routine night patrol and had just left Chingford police station in an unmarked patrol car when he came across two men acting suspiciously.

He was stabbed and knocked to the ground by one of the men and attacked again. He was knifed several times with a long thin-bladed knife and the microphone from his radio was cut off. The two men then escaped. Mr King raised himself, staggered a short way into the road and flagged down a motorist, who took him to Walthamstow police station.

Police officers took him to Whipp's Cross Hospital but he was dead on arrival. A post mortem examination showed that he had died from multiple injuries to his head, chest and abdomen.

He was unable to say anything about his attackers before he died. The man who drove him to the station was questioned by police for most of yesterday.

Mr King, who had served at many stations in north and

Drugs galore on Irish strand

BY GEOFF KING

IN A deadly Irish version of *Whisky Galore*, a cargo of drugs and arms was washed ashore in a bay south of Dublin yesterday. Four plastic drums found at the water's edge close to a spot immortalised in Joyce's *Ulysses* were found to contain a handgun, ammunition and 70 kilos of cannabis thought to have come from a ship which sank last week with the loss of three crewmen.

Security sources said that paramilitaries might have smuggled the illicit cargo aboard the MV Kilkenny, a 2,600-tonne freighter owned by B & I, without the knowledge of its crew. None of the survivors were being questioned about the discovery. The drugs were found by a woman walking in Sandycove in Dublin Bay, a few hundred yards from the Martello Tower from which Buck Mulligan and Stephen Dedalus gazed out into the bay at the opening of *Ulysses*.

It emerged last night that the Kilkenny, which made a weekly passage from Rotterdam to Dublin via Antwerp and sank after a collision, had been searched three weeks ago by Irish police officers looking for drugs.

The Antwerp-Dublin route has been used in the past by two Republican splinter groups, the Irish People's Liberation Organisation and the Irish National Liberation Army, to smuggle weapons into Ireland and drugs to raise money for its activities.

In December 1989, a policeman was shot in Antwerp after apparently disturbing a smuggling operation at the docks involving the ILO. Four guns and 500 rounds of ammunition were recovered in a follow-up operation and a B & I ship was searched by police in Dublin on arrival from Belgium.

Anthony Kerr, one of the two men involved in the shooting and a member of the ILO, was later arrested at a house in Amsterdam where police found handguns, ammunition and false passports. He was extradited to Belgium and is serving a four-year jail sentence for his part in the shooting. Peter McNally, his accomplice, was also arrested in central Amsterdam in September this year. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from his flat.

THE TIMES TODAY

TWO SIDES OF SHOPPING



In Weekend Times Robin Young leads the way across the Channel to the French ports: how to find the best shops, the best bargains and the best lunch.



... while in west London Bipin Patel fears that his general store will be forced out of business by the big supermarkets' plans to open on Sundays Page 3

WACKO'S BACK



Michael Jackson is at number one again with *Black and White* - but how long can his bubble last? Today's Saturday Review looks behind the legend. Plus: four pages of Christmas books

INSIDE LETTERS, PRAY



Saskia Wickham as Clarissa, the televised heroine of Richardson's novel *Jane Eyre*, whose own epistolary novel won this year's Whitbread prize. Laments the lost art of letter-writing Page 12

Five life terms for head who abused children

BY CRAIG SETON

THE former head of three Leicestershire children's homes was given five life sentences at Leicester crown court last night for a reign of terror of sexual and physical abuse against children in care. Frank Beck, who assaulted up to 200 disturbed children over a 13-year period, was described by Mr Justice Jowitt as a man of great evil.

At the end of an 11-week trial involving the biggest case of child sex abuse to come before a British court, Beck, aged 49, was sentenced to life on each of four counts of bugging children under 16 and for raping a girl. He was also jailed for a total of 24 years for other sexual and physical assaults after being found guilty of a total of 17 charges. The judge said young people needed to be protected from Beck for an indefinite period.

Adults who were children when Beck abused them and who gave evidence against him were in court as he stood grim faced for sentencing. The prosecution had said young people were systematically abused in a "reign of terror" during which they were treated like babies.

A national enquiry to examine the selection of staff at children's homes was announced last night by William Waldegrave, the health secretary. A second enquiry will look into the way complaints about Beck were handled in Leicestershire.

Mr Waldegrave said: "Abuse of children is always abhorrent. These crimes were particularly despicable because the abuse in these homes went on for so long, and affected so many children."



Beck: reign of terror over 13-year period

ren who had been entrusted to the defendants for care and help."

The health department is expected to order a full investigation to discover why Beck was not detected earlier as child abuser when he headed three social service homes in Leicestershire between 1973-86.

Greville Janner, QC, the MP for Leicester West, is to make a statement in the Commons next week after being named during Beck's trial. Paul Winston, aged 30, a former boy in care, alleged in evidence for Beck that the MP had sexually abused him during a relationship over two years.

Mr Janner said at the time that he could not comment because it was sub judice, but his office said yesterday: "This matter raises issues which go far beyond my own personal position. In my opinion the appropriate way to deal with them is in the House of Commons. Mr Justice Jowitt said on page 18, col 1

Continued on page 18, col 1

Errors of judgment, page 3

Britain wins over 48-hour week

BY TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND NICHOLAS WOOD

BRITAIN won a victory in its struggle against the EC's social charter yesterday when ministers failed to agree on a 48-hour week and restricted Sunday work. They are now unlikely to be agreed upon before the end of the year.

Despite last-minute lobbying by the Dutch presidency of the Community, problems with the controversial proposals of Vasso Papanandreu, the social affairs commissioner, are so widespread that the meeting next Tuesday of social

affairs ministers will do little more than identify main sticking points.

President Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, met in Paris yesterday in an intensifying round of diplomatic exchanges which will be continued tomorrow when John Major visits Holland.

President Mitterrand said political union without Britain would be conceivable but not desirable in an interview with the *Frankfurter*

Allgemeine Zeitung. "I believe it is better to show understanding and patience than to leave a great European country by the wayside," President Mitterrand was quoted as saying. "But if Briquand does not want to follow, then one will have to be prepared for the future treaties being signed without it."

A German official, commenting on the Social Charter

Continued on page 18, col 3

Kohl's unity river, page 9

Ghost of Christmas past haunts TV chiefs

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AS BRITAIN settles down, post-festive, for the Queen's speech this Christmas, the nation should spare a thought for the poor TV scheduling executives who, at that precise moment, will be choking on this year's media turkey.

BBC1 is the traditional winner of the race for Christmas ratings, but, rather like plucky Cambridge on boat race day, ITV always pulls hard against the new. This year, it had planned a supper Antie with a *Coronation Street* special timed to thwart its rival's ambitions to win a 20-million-plus audience for the film *Batman*, now scheduled to begin immediately after the Queen's speech. *Coronation Street*, ran the master plan, would begin ten minutes before the royal broadcast, stop for its duration and then resume immediately

after the Queen concluded her message. But ITV's big secret is out and the programme controllers have to think again - that is, if they think their BBC counterparts are thinking again. "If we think the BBC hasn't changed its 'if we think we might not abandon it' a schedule we might not abandon it," a hopeful Granada spokesman said.

There were no clues forthcoming from Roger Mackay, overall head of BBC transmission planning, who would say only: "I'm sure there will be lots of leaks in the newspapers, but I won't believe a word of it until I read *Radio Times*." The bluffs and counter-bluffs, carried out in a spirit of festive fun and deadly commercial earnest, will continue up to the last possible minute - when the presses of *Radio Times*, *TV Times* and the other listings magazines begin to roll next Tuesday evening. Until then, executives will jealously guard their various Christmas strategies, referring only to plans A, B and C, while dispatching spies to

glean what they can from gossip at the Groucho Club and other media watering holes.

Such skulduggery has long been a feature of the yuletide ratings battle, although success has always been more important for the BBC1, which, trailing its rival in the ratings every other week of the year, could be said to deserve a Christmas present.

ITV, for its part, has felt distinctly uneasy come the season of goodwill ever since it caught an advertising executive flogging Christmas scheduling secrets to the BBC 15 years ago. Executives say that happens every year, but the BBC dismisses the allegation as "another tall tale embroidered in the wine bars in the festive season".

Last Christmas Day, the BBC won with 17.97 million viewers for an *Only Fools and Horses* special. ITV's nearest challenge was *Coronation Street* with 14.73 million.

Let's video the first half then watch it during the speech



VENTURE A LITTLE HIGHER



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

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Home Office failed to bring back refugee who won right to stay

Baker verdict fuels asylum dispute

BY JAMIE DETTMER

THE decision by the High Court yesterday in finding Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, guilty of contempt marks another stage in the government's attempts to distinguish between the genuine asylum seeker fleeing persecution and the economic migrant determined to better his material existence.

A series of embarrassing cases has raised doubts about the ability of the Home Office to decide which refugees are at risk if they are refused leave to stay in Britain. In 1988, three Tamil asylum seekers deported to Sri Lanka were subsequently arrested by the authorities there and tortured. Three Kurdish refugees in 1989 were also ill-treated when they were returned to Turkey.

The High Court's ruling yesterday, involving a Zairean teacher, puts Home Office ministers in the position of being seen as ready to thumb their noses at the judiciary when it comes to

refugee matters. The man, aged 29, found asylum in Britain in September 1990, claiming that he had been maltreated after being accused in his country of anti-government activity. His allegations were corroborated by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. "The scars he bore were entirely compatible with the causes he ascribed to them," one refugee organisation said.

The man, whose name has not been given at the request of his solicitors, said on his arrival in Britain that he had escaped with the help of a prison guard and was smuggled on to a cargo aircraft and taken to Lagos, Nigeria. He used a false Nigerian passport to fly to London.

The British government is obliged, under a 1951 United Nations convention, to grant asylum to people who have a well-founded fear of persecution. However, Peter Lloyd, the minister in charge of refugee issues at the Home Office, decided that

the man did not qualify for asylum. The Home Office rejected his story as unbelievable.

The Zairean applied on May 1 this year for a judicial review of Mr Lloyd's decision. The application was heard shortly before the man was due to fly from Heathrow to Paris in handcuffs, en route for Kinshasa.

Mr Justice Garland decided that there were grounds for the application and the Treasury solicitor gave an undertaking at 5.55pm that the man would be taken off the plane, which was scheduled to leave at 6.30pm. Within five minutes of the undertaking, the Home Office tried to contact immigration officials at the airport, apparently to no avail. At 6.15pm, the Home Office heard that the man was on the flight and decided that it was impossible to get him off, even though the plane's doors were not closed until 6.29pm.

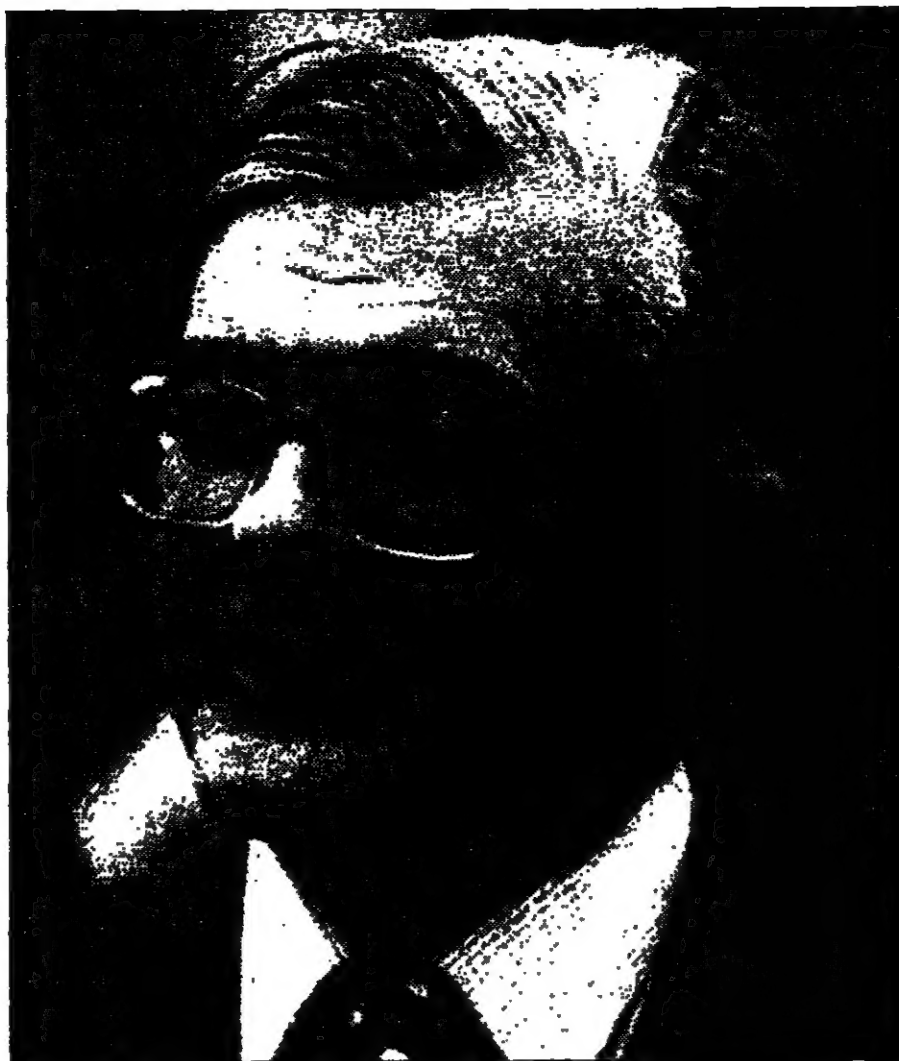
In Paris, the man and his two escorts had to wait two hours for their connecting flight. As it took off, Mr Justice Garland issued an order requiring the home secretary to bring the man back. Evidence was provided to the High Court that Mr Baker could have complied with this order by having the man put on a flight from Kinshasa to London at 9pm the next day. The home secretary did not comply.

Chris Smith, the Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, who had taken up the man's case, said at the time: "I am staggered by the apparent incompetence with which Home Office and immigration authorities have dealt with this case from start to finish."

During the High Court hearing, Stephen Sedley, QC, who has continued to act for the man, said the case was a "lamentable history of failures and errors, any single one of which would be surprising."

The case has come at a time when the government has become increasingly uneasy about the growing numbers seeking asylum. Africans have traditionally accounted for most of the applications. There is now a backlog of more than 50,000 cases awaiting adjudication, and more than 20,000 requests have been received this year.

Baker guilty, page 1
Leading article, page 13



In the hotseat: Kenneth Baker yesterday at Oldbury, West Midlands

Punchbag minister who keeps smiling through

Yesterday's court ruling against Kenneth Baker is the latest blow for a minister who is running low on luck, writes Peter Riddell

KENNETH Baker is one of the most resilient figures in politics, always with a smile whatever the adversity. He needs to be. Yesterday's ruling by the Court of Appeal that he was guilty of contempt of court was the latest in a series of blows he has experienced in his year as home secretary. He is like a boxer just recovering from a hard punch in one round only to be hit from another angle in the next.

There is no immediate question of Mr Baker having to resign, but no one would bet on his long-term future in the government after the election. Many ministers anyway regarded him as fortunate to be given such a senior post by John Major (it was first offered to Michael Heseltine), and he has had a difficult run.

Mr Baker appears to be a Vicar of Bray, none more Heathite in the 1970s and none more Thatcherite in the 1980s. Many made a similar adjustment, but Mr Baker's transition was too smooth for some tastes. He became first an ardent advocate of privatisation, and

then of curbing local government powers; he was an author of the poll tax and the main architect of the far-reaching changes in education, including a national curriculum and opting-out.

In each case, he showed flair and energy, but left successors considerable problems. He lost friends along the way, leading to the joke circulated by Tory whips — "What is the worst job in government? The one Ken Baker last had."

Mr Baker had a rough time during 16 months as Conservative party chairman amid Mrs Thatcher's growing unpopularity and poor election results, though he portrayed a few successes in last year's local elections as a general victory. Staying loyal to Mrs Thatcher to the end, he did not come well publicly out of the Tory elec-

tion contest, though he is saving his version of events. By the time Mr Major became prime minister, Mr Baker was looking battered. Throughout, however, he has gained from a strong family life and outside interests, including the theatre. He has tried to fight back; he wants to be known as a reforming home secretary and he made a robust speech to the Tory conference.

Mr Baker has learnt that the Home Office is the most unpredictable of ministries: nasty surprises can appear at any time of day or night. He is held to account for everything from jail break-outs and dangerous dogs to inner-city disturbances.

How far should a minister be held responsible for specific implementation of programmes, as opposed to broad policy? Lord Donaldson yesterday said that Mr Baker's culpability fell "at the lower end of the scale". The specific point of issue now goes to the Lords.

Home secretaries need a good deal of luck. Mr Baker has had little. He is again looking accident-prone.

Lineker baby has rare leukaemia

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE eight-week-old son of Gary Lineker, the England football captain, will begin chemotherapy today after doctors confirmed that he is suffering a rare form of leukaemia.

Mr Lineker, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, whose 31st birthday is today, and his wife, Michelle, have been at the bedside of their son, George, at the Great Ormond Street hospital for sick children, London, since he was admitted on Wednesday.

Tests finally showed yesterday that he was suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia, a variant of the blood cancer, which is extremely rare in babies. It develops in the bone marrow in the myeloid white blood cells that are part of the immune system. John Shearer, the hospital's deputy administrator, said the baby's condition was "very poorly but stable" and it was difficult to say how he would respond to treatment.

National success rates with this form of the illness average about one in every four cases, but Great Ormond Street has a reputation for being among the best in treating the illness. Mr Shearer said George was under the care of doctors on the

haematology and oncology team. "His mother and father are with him, and his mother sleeps with George on the oncology ward."

Last month, while launching a campaign in London to raise £5 million for sick children, Mr Lineker said that becoming a father had made him realise "how vulnerable children are and how much we all have to do to make sure they are able to lead happy, healthy lives".

Leukaemia in babies under the age of one is extremely rare. The most recent figures, for 1985, record only 14 cases in England and Wales. Of those, two had myeloid leukaemia. Radiotherapy is often used with older children, but babies undergo intensive drug treatment.

David Owen, the former SDP leader, wrote this summer in his biography, *Time to Declare*, how he and his wife, Deborah, had coped with the news in 1973 that their son, Tristan, had leukaemia. "Never have I felt so empty and I doubt if I could ever feel so empty again," he said.

Together they "willed" the three-year-old to live. He was finally cleared of the illness 13 years later.

Threat to woodland grows

BY MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

POWERS to issue compulsory purchase orders have been gained by the transport department as part of government plans to acquire a section of Oxleas Wood in southeast London for approach roads to the proposed east London river crossing.

Greenwich council and householders living in the path of the approach roads have been notified of the department's new powers, announced five weeks after the European Commission began legal action against the government for allegedly violating EC legislation.

The transport department insists, however, that the approach roads for the crossing have honoured EC requirements, and that the bridge and roads are urgently needed in a notoriously congested part of the capital.

The government's decision to press ahead with the scheme, which cut through one of London's last remaining ancient woodlands, has been met with warnings from local environmental campaigners that any attempt to start work on the site will be met with direct action.

Father is jailed for 1957 rape

A man aged 74 was jailed at the Old Bailey yesterday for raping his daughter almost 35 years ago. The lapse of time between the offence and the trial was described in court by his counsel as "unique".

The man, from west London, admitted forcing his daughter, now aged 48, to have sexual intercourse against her will in 1957, when she was 13, and again in 1958. He admitted indecent assaults, beginning 15 years later, on his daughter's daughter, when she was between six and nine years old, and on another granddaughter when she was between seven and eight.

Jailing him for four-and-a-half years, Judge Robert Lydney, said that the acts committed by the man were "quite dreadful and the harm done incalculable". All three victims were now receiving counselling. The offences came to light earlier this year when one of the granddaughters went to the police.

Sunday traders win support

More than two out of every three shoppers want stores to be able to open on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas, according to a Mori poll carried out for the Shopping Hours Reform Council.

The poll, copies of which are being sent to MPs, also shows that people are concerned about the rights of shop workers, with 93 per cent of those questioned agreeing that they should have a legal right to refuse to work on Sundays. Sixty-seven per cent said that they might use shops on Sundays if they were open. A representative sample of 1,839 people were interviewed across England and Wales between October 18 and October 21.

Trouble in store, page 3

Raphael 'find'

A forgotten painting by Raphael may have been "discovered" in the collection of the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle. Nicholas Penny, a National Gallery curator, examined the *Madonna dei Garofani* on a hunch. Sotheby's has estimated that it could be worth up to £30 million. The painting, measuring 11 in. by 8 in., goes on show at the National Gallery in February.

Legal protest

Fifty solicitors in Southampton have withdrawn from a 24-hour duty system, leaving defendants without emergency legal cover. They are protesting about a fixed-fee legal aid scheme planned by the Lord Chancellor that would reduce court fees by more than half. The solicitors say that would make it unprofitable for them to defend criminal cases. There are plans to spread the protest.

College drugs

Seven pupils, aged 15 and 16, have been suspended from Pangbourne College, the naval training school on the Oxfordshire-Berkshire border, after they admitted smoking cannabis at a bonfire night discotheque.

Space woman shuns route to the stars

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ANYONE hoping to see Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, starting in Peter Pan this Christmas or appearing in a bathing suit at a supermarket opening is going to be disappointed.

Despite hiring an agent specialising in media personalities and being deluged with lucrative offers, the 28-year-old chemist has decided to shun the limelight in favour of a part-time job in engineering.

Six months after circling the Earth on the Anglo-Soviet Juno mission, she has agreed to join Serco Space of Sunbury-on-Thames, a British company specialising in satellites and ground stations. The move is very much in keeping with Miss Sharman's life since returning from the mission.

She has been acting as the education and science department's unofficial space emissary, carrying out a busy schedule of school visits, talks to learned societies, awards ceremonies and meetings with politicians.

In late May, 22,000 miles above Earth on the Mir space station, most people knew exactly where Miss Sharman was. Now, even her family rarely knows.

Yesterday, for example, she accepted an honorary fellowship from Sheffield City Polytechnic to add to her life membership of the Royal Aeronautical Society given earlier in the week. She meets officials at the Science Museum next Tuesday and three days later visits Birmingham University. Sometime next year, Miss Sharman will complete her schools tour of Britain.

Her career could have been very different if mam-

mon rather than integrity had ruled. Even now, the offers eager to engage her services come flooding in at the rate of 30 to 40 a day.

Tony Fox, the man hired as Miss Sharman's agent, emphasises that many of these are from worthy organisations but there are still the odd ones. "One borough council asked if she would open a landfill... we politely had to decline."

Miss Sharman said: "It was very much a decision I had to make. Do I earn myself millions or else do something that the country might benefit from. A choice between being a celebrity or being an astronaut."

The theme of her school talks for nine to 13-year-olds is that science and technology, and space in particular, are exciting and that Britain should play a more active role, especially with the European Space Agency. "It is important to get the children interested in science and technology and space. It is much harder to convert someone when they get to a politician's age."



Sharman: honoured by polytechnic yesterday

DOW'S PORT

From THE GREAT AGE of Port Drinking.

Report condemns errors of judgment by social services despite 'overwhelming' evidence

Why no action was taken against Beck

BY CRAIG SETON

"OVERWHELMING" evidence existed that would have enabled Leicestershire social services to take decisive action against Frank Beck up to four years before he was suspended and resigned in 1986, a confidential internal report for the authority has disclosed.

The report, sent to the health department, also said it was extraordinary that Beck was given a reference by the Leicestershire authority after he quit that made no mention of his suspension or police investigations that had been conducted into allegations of child abuse.

What is now known is that Beck went on to work with children again, as deputy manager of a children's home in Brent. Allegations that

Beck was abusing children, suspicions about his homosexuality and police investigations of ill-treatment were recorded against him, but there appeared to be an unwillingness by senior officials to take action.

A draft of the report, by Barry Newell, the former deputy director of Nottinghamshire social services called in to investigate the affair, also shows that the former officer in charge of three council-run children's homes between 1973 and 1986 was allowed to foster a boy in care despite a complaint that he was homosexual and a police investigation that led to him appearing in court charged with assaulting a boy.

Mr Newell's report has shocked senior officials and

councillors at county hall in Leicester and is almost certain to prompt a full enquiry by the health department.

The scale of Beck's sexual and physical abuse of children and care staff did not become fully known until a chance remark by one of his former victims led to a police enquiry in 1990. However, Mr Newell's report, compiled from contemporary records, suggests that a damning dossier of complaints, suspicions, police investigations and other serious concerns had been amassing from the early Eighties.

□ 1980: allegation of violence against girl, aged 15; Beck warned that incidents of malpractice should not be "swung under the carpet".

□ January 1982: staff at the Beeches in Leicester, where Beck was in charge, made complaints about treatment of young people; Beck requested approval as foster parent.

□ June 1982: complaint made to social worker that Beck had homosexual relationship with boy he planned to foster.

□ July 1982: report for foster approval indicated allegation of homosexuality but argued "no need to pursue"; Beck charged with assault on boy in care, but received letters of support from staff; senior officers agreed not to suspend Beck pending court hearing.

□ August 1982: Beck warned of unacceptable methods following complaint of ill-treatment of child.

□ November 1982: social worker complained of violence and Beck's relationship with prospective foster child.

□ February 1983: Beck found not guilty of assault at Leicester Crown Court.

□ May 1982: approved as foster parent; three months later another boy placed with him on lodging arrangement.

□ July 1983: another children's home indicates staff have heard stories of ill-treatment by Beck.

□ March 1984: to March 1986: more complaints included claims of violence from former child in care.

Two police investigations found insufficient evidence to proceed.

Mr Newell said he found no reason to criticise the council's investigation of 12 incidents concerning Beck and the Beeches, but he added: "What is extraordinary is that nothing actually happened other than occasionally Beck was written to."

There were hints in the records of some despair among staff — "another complaint about Beck, I suppose nothing will happen again" — said Mr Newell's report.

He said that between 1982 and 1985 "the evidence was



Beck's world: clockwise from top right, Frank Beck; the Beeches, where he was in charge between 1978 and 1986; Peter Jaynes, convicted of indecent assault at Ratcliffe Road home, and George Lincoln, Beck's former Beeches deputy, who was found guilty of common assault

overwhelming for 'something to be done'. Staff, felt Mr Newell, could have been disheartened that senior management appeared unwilling to act, leading to a feeling that there was no point in complaining about cases of ill-treatment.

Mr Newell, who criticised the decision not to suspend Beck when he was charged with the offence which led to court proceedings, said it was a major error of judgment that when the case was over his application to foster a boy was approved.

Turning to the aftermath of Beck's departure in March 1986, after being suspended and then resigning, he said that in January 1987 the department had received a letter from a social care agency in London seeking a reference for him.

A reference was sent that did not mention his suspension, but referred to his resignation. It suggested that Beck "found it easier to sympathise with those residential care officers who adopted his style of operation". It also said that the willingness with which he

was prepared to commit himself to the interests of young people in a wholehearted manner was acknowledged throughout the department.

In March 1987 the department received a letter seeking information about Beck from Brent council in north London, which had employed him on a short contract.

Leicestershire's response, which Mr Newell described as "extraordinary", was to supply a copy of the earlier reference with a covering letter that referred to his resignation "following difficulties

which arose in relationships with staff leading to a loss of confidence on both sides".

The department had created circumstances where Beck could argue that he had resigned because of staff difficulties. Leicestershire had made serious errors of judgment over those events. They had been correct to suspend him and his resignation may have been a relief, but, given the nature of the suspension, the health department should have been advised of what the authority believed and it should have been more honest and candid in the references subsequently sought.

After Beck left Brent later in 1987, at the end of his contract, he worked as a social worker in Leicestershire for Herfordshire county council, which had received satisfactory references from both Brent and an agency. He was sacked by the county in 1990 after his arrest. The reason given was professional misconduct over relationships with clients. None of the charges against Beck related to his time in Brent or Herfordshire.

Beck served as a Liberal Democrat councillor on Blaby district council, Leicestershire, between 1983 and 1990.

Service in Marines shaped career

BY CRAIG SETON

FRANK Beck, aged 49, was born in Salisbury, Wiltshire, and was educated in Croydon, south London, before joining the Royal Marines when he was 17.

Beck served almost ten years with the marines, becoming a sergeant and serving in Singapore, Malaysia and Aden. After leaving the forces he went into the probation service because of his experience with young people. He worked at probation hostels in Leicester and Northampton and was later offered a post with Northamptonshire social services.

He said that he was introduced to regression therapy at the Highfields Centre in Northampton. Beck then took a two-year, full-time social work course before he applied for a job with Leicestershire social services. Beck was offered a post as officer in charge of the Poplars children's home in Market Harborough. The home was closed during rationalisation in 1975 and Beck, together with some of his staff, moved to the Ratcliffe Road home in Leicester, where he was again in charge.

For a short time in 1978, Beck acted as relief head of another social services care home in Market Harborough and then took over at the Beeches, Leicestershire Forest East. He was there until he resigned in 1986.

Ratcliffe Road, which dealt with up to 22 children aged between 11 and 17, closed two years ago. The Beeches was shut in February. The two homes were at the centre of most of the allegations against Beck and were declared surplus to requirements by the county council, which has gradually reduced the number of children in residential care from more than 300 in 1974 to 76 this year, in keeping with new attitudes to care it shares with other authorities.

Beck served as a Liberal Democrat councillor on Blaby district council, Leicestershire, between 1983 and 1990.

Therapy method made children 'ripe for abuse'

THE regression therapy introduced to Leicestershire by Frank Beck was the guise behind which pervers had taken their pleasure, the prosecution said at his trial (Craig Seton writes).

The court was told that the therapy involved taking deeply disturbed children back to experiences they had missed in their early years. Some were treated as babies, being carried by staff, cuddled and fed from bottles.

Emotionally damaged children as young as eight, often from broken homes and who had suffered abuse by their parents, were forced to have temper tantrums through insults or physical contact, then were calmed and offered affection.

The jury was told that children were taken back to a state of isolation, loneliness and vulnerability that made them ripe for abuse, and easy meat for the powerful, dominating personality of Frank Beck. It is likely that Beck modified regression therapy during his work in Leicester.

shire and may well have added elements of the stern discipline he was taught during his military training.

Brian Waller, who took over as director of social services in 1988, two years after Beck had resigned in disgrace, said that the therapy had not been used in the county before Beck arrived and it had no place in good child care.

Beck developed a reputation in Leicestershire as the care homes officer who would willingly take the most difficult and disturbed children, especially adolescents. For some, he was a shining light, finding a new way to deal with apparently hopeless cases.

Articles were written about his methods in specialist social work magazines.

Dorothy Edwards, social services director between 1974 and 1980, told the court: "We had some ques-

tion marks about the therapy because some of the adolescents would run up and hug Mr Beck and other members of staff. It seemed an odd thing for adolescents to do, but nevertheless it seemed to us... that some of the children were being helped by this therapy."

11 or 12 when he was "regressed", told the court: "You were expected to behave like very young children. I saw children with dummies in their mouths — children of my age." He said that a social worker told him his mother was a slag and his father was a drunk, to get him angry. The sessions took place up to five times a week.

Irena Halonka, a former teacher at the Beeches home, said she was disturbed at the way some children were given the treatment. Some were hit and others verbally abused.

"Girls were called sluts, revolting, disgusting, and told nobody loved them." Boys were called homosexual.

Peter Jaynes, Beck's former deputy and co-defendant, said she was disturbed at the "break children before caring for them". He agreed that children were tortured and battered into submission.

Beck said in evidence that the application of the therapy was like a ladder being climbed by the average person during their life, with the rungs representing a stage of development. Some rungs could be missing with a damaged person, and regression involved identifying the missing rung and replacing it.

Trouble in store for family businesses, say traders

TWO months ago Chinan Patel and his brother, Bipin, both originally from Gujarat, India, took over a general store in Hammer-smith, west London. Too big to be described as a corner shop, it sells a wide range of fresh food and groceries, as well as confectionery, cigarettes and newspapers.

Until their arrival the shop had been a long-standing local family business, but the Patels' friendly manner dispelled any misgivings customers might have felt about the change. Now, however, the brothers feel that the decision by the large supermarket chains to float the law by opening on Sundays has put their new venture in jeopardy. There are two Sainsbury's stores, each about half a mile away, and a giant Sainsbury's little more than a mile away.

"This is a convenience shop," Chinan Patel said. "We cannot compete on prices with Sainsbury's and the others because they can buy in bulk, which we cannot. Only about ten people do their regular weekly shopping here. For the rest of our customers we just provide a handy service."

"Sunday is our best day of the week. People are relaxing, and they come in for the Sunday papers or to buy things like milk or sugar when they run out. Families come in after church, and they are all beautifully dressed. Fathers bring their children to buy newspapers and sweets for the kids. There is a nice relaxed home atmosphere, which they certainly will not get in a supermarket." Asked why

After ministers' refusal to act against supermarkets defying Sunday trading laws, John Young finds out the reaction from an open-all-hours shop

small shops should be allowed to open on Sundays, if the big stores are forbidden to do so, Bipin Patel said: "I would not really mind if no one was allowed to open, but where would people buy their Sunday papers or things they run out of, like milk or cigarettes?"

So how do they expect the new competition to affect them? "We will have to wait about six months to see what happens, and whether the supermarkets continue to open on Sundays after Christmas," Bipin Patel said.

"It may mean that we have to open all day on Sundays, instead of just in the mornings, which means we will be sacrificing our own family life. Alternatively, we

may have to close all day, and those who suffer most will be the public because they will lose the convenience of having a local shop. The next thing we know, W.H. Smith will be opening on Sundays to sell newspapers."

"We try to give a personal service to all our customers. For example, a lady came in and asked for a jar of horseradish sauce with beetroot, so I had to order a whole case and I've still got 11 jars on the shelf. Supermarkets do not give customers that sort of personal attention."

Chinan Patel said that when he arrived in Britain in the 1960s, corner shops were dying, and were viewed only by people like him who were prepared to work all hours.

"My brother and I work a 97-hour week. We pay £15,300 a year in rent, and £7,000 in rates, and we also had to take out a big bank loan." After paying the wages of five staff, rent and rates, lighting, heating, insurance, loan interest, and accountants' and solicitors' fees, he calculates that his net return after tax is just £1,200 an hour.

"The supermarkets are breaking the law and are getting away with it. Our message to them is live and let us small people live too, and do not be so greedy." He believed that, if Sunday trading became widespread, shops like his had little future.

More than half the supermarkets owned by Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Safeway are expected to open tomorrow.



Bipin Patel: six-month wait to see result

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Camelot on trial

It's gonna be dirty and mean," said one of Kennedy's six-man legal team over drinks at a downtown bar. "But we are going to go all out to take that woman apart. Willie is



innocent and his family are with him all the way. It will go the distance. There will be no plea bargaining and no deals."

James Dalrymple, in The Sunday Times tomorrow, on the Kennedy clan's latest crisis as William Kennedy Smith goes on trial for rape.

Dine out and lose weight

In The Sunday Times Magazine, part 2 of Michel Montignac's revolutionary diet plan.



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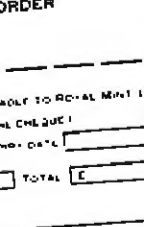
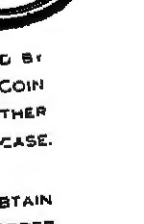
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Orchestra to sue over cut in grant

BY ROBIN YOUNG

AN Macley, the managing director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, said yesterday that he would sue the Arts Council if it did not restore the orchestra's grant, which is to be cut from £460,000 to £400,000 next year. The RPO, whose principal conductor is Vladimir Ashkenazy, was a big loser in the dispensations announced by the council on Thursday.

Mr Macley said that he had a letter dated April 24 this year from Kenneth Baird, the Arts Council's director of music, guaranteeing support for the orchestra's London concerts in the coming financial year. "When Kenneth Baird belatedly rang me to tell me the council's latest arbitrary decision, he told me that there would only be funding for 15 concerts in London and for our touring activities," Mr Macley said yesterday. "While we were pleased to

have our touring recognised at last, something for which we have been pressing for many years, we have it in writing that the Arts Council had pledged its support for 20 London concerts next year. They cannot renege on a clear commitment like that, and if they try we shall just go to law and sue them."

"You would expect that, if they were going to cut our grant, they would at least do their homework and get their facts right first, so that they would not leave loopholes for me to exploit."

Mr Macley claimed that, although the Arts Council had publicly criticised the RPO's conservative programming, Mr Baird had professed "ignorance" that the orchestra had appointed Sir Peter Maxwell Davies as its associate conductor and composer in the orchestra with effect from September 1992. Sir Peter has two concerts with the orchestra scheduled in the coming financial year.

Mr Macley said: "When I asked Kenneth Baird whether the Maxwell Davies concerts had been taken into account, he said: 'What Maxwell Davies concerts?'"

He said that the Arts Council appeared to have ignored its own appraisal of the orchestra's efforts, which had recommended that the RPO's tours outside London should be supported in addition to its London programming. "We did not initiate the idea of Arts Council appraisals," he said. "They did. The least they could do is read them when they have got them."

If the Arts Council made good its original promise to fund 20 London concerts, that would mean an extra £85,000 for the orchestra's grant, an increase on last year of 13 per cent, he said. "Although that is still insufficient, it would go some way to redress the balance."

He claimed that the RPO was being penalised for its success with commercial recordings and in attracting sponsorship. "We are told that we must not fall into deficit, but if we succeed in making a modest profit it seems we are punished for it. I am confident that we will eventually get the support we were promised because I intend to embarrass the Arts Council to the utmost of my ability until they come through with the goods."

The Arts Council said yesterday that Mr Baird could not be contacted.



Ashkenazy: principal conductor with RPO



First steps: Viviana Durante coaching Katie Hunter, aged four, who will open *Dance for Life*, the royal gala at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, tomorrow, which will raise funds for the Aids charity Crusaid

Peace moves at cathedral fail

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS by professional counsellors to establish peace in the close at Lincoln Cathedral have ended in failure.

The counsellors were called in to resolve a dispute over the loss of £60,000 by an exhibition of the cathedral's copy of Magna Carta in Australia in 1988. The Bishop of Lincoln, Robert Hardy, called unsuccessfully for the resignation of all four residential canons after an enquiry. A four-month police investigation found insufficient evidence to bring proceedings.

The counsellors' report says that the issues surrounding Magna Carta were the trigger for a conflict of great complexity. They say that the dean, Brandon Jackson, felt a deep sense of isolation within the chapter. The level of distrust was so profound that when the chancellor, Canon John Nurser, and the archdeacon spoke of the dean's pastoral gifts, they were not believed by the dean himself.

Brian Thorne, director of student counselling at East Anglia University and a prominent Anglican layman, was called in a year ago to

help to mediate. Kathleen Baker, a Manchester-based counsellor, joined his work. Their report, written after nearly 22 hours of meetings, says that the initial meetings disclosed "a situation of grave conflict and profound differences in perception. Most marked was the presence of high levels of fear and rage within the group and of a sense of intolerable pain."

The report speaks of historic myths and "powerful unconscious forces at work". It says: "These basic assumptions have probably permeated the Lincoln environment for centuries and they operate in complete opposition to the spirit of the cathedral statutes, which require collegiality and co-operation based on an atmosphere of trust." The conciliators warn of "even graver hurt" should further attempts at conciliation fail.

Nonetheless, the conciliators say: "We believe the human stature of the current members of the chapter is such that, with God's help, a decisive break with the destructive patterns of the past can be accomplished."

No cash for Aids victims

Patients who contracted the Aids virus through contaminated blood transfusions will not receive government compensation, it emerged yesterday.

Although £42 million in compensation is being given to about 1,200 HIV-infected haemophiliacs, there will be none for the estimated 170 non-haemophiliacs who received the contaminated transfusions in the 1980s, according to Virginia Bottomley, the health minister.

"We do not regard this as a precedent for other groups," Mrs Bottomley says in a letter to Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh East. In reply, Dr Strang said that the letter was a disgraceful response from the government.

Leap to safety

Mark Barlow, aged 28, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, escaped death when he jumped from his runaway van inches before it plunged 200ft over a mountain precipice in Eskdale, Cumbria.

Costly claim

A claimant who tore a radiator from the wall at a dole office in Dalsion, East London, because he had waited too long, caused damage of £50,000.

Welsh reward

BT workers are to be paid up to £2,290 extra for speaking Welsh during their daily work, giving parity with workers who speak other European languages.

Girl's tax shock

Faye Doggrell, aged four, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, has been summonsed by the town's magistrates for failing to pay £413 poll tax.

Change for a fiver leaves duke cut up

BY TIM JONES

THE Duke of Wellington was formally shunted aside at midnight by George Stephenson as the £5 note bearing the portrait of the hero of Waterloo ceased to be legal tender.

Since the Iron Duke first appeared on the fiver in 1971, five billion notes bearing the image of the man who humbled the French in 1815 have been printed, the Bank of England estimates.

The duke, prime minister from 1828 to 1830, would not have been amused to not have been amused to learn that the notes depicting him in defiant pose are now being granulated for use as fertiliser.

In spite of last night's deadline, it is estimated that 60 million of the notes remain in circulation. The Bank said that it would, as ever, honour the promise to pay any bearer who turns up at its door demanding an exchange.

With 500 million £5 notes printed last year, the Bank is running out of landfill sites in which to dump tattered ones. The dump are reckoned to have a life span of less than 12 months, and, with ragged notes of other denom-

inations, amount to 2,000 tons of rubbish a year.

Incineration has come to be seen as environmentally unfriendly, so now old notes are granulated into tiny blobs. At the Essex high-security plant where notes are printed, the Bank has installed machinery that masticates old notes into millimetre blobs.

The new smaller £5 note, introduced last year, was partly designed to pre-empt forgers, and it has been welcomed by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The reduction from 5.8in by 3in to 5.3in by 2.8in was not welcomed by banks or British Rail, which had to change automatic telling machines.

Seeking ways in which to get rid of the notes, the Bank has sold some of the granulated debris to Stuart Goldie, who runs the Botanic Centre near Middlesbrough, Cleveland. Yesterday, Mr Goldie declared the cotton-based notes a good fertiliser when mixed with industrial sludge, producing good trial crops of sweet peas and lettuce. Now he intends to see what the duke can do for Money-maker tomatoes.

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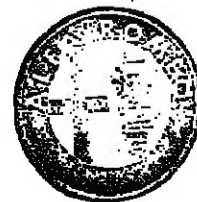
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Patients want cancer findings withdrawn

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Correspondent

FORMER breast cancer patients called yesterday for a Charities Commission enquiry into a research project that cast doubts on the safety of the complementary therapies they received at the Bristol Cancer Help Centre.

A study published last year said that women attending the centre were twice as likely to die, and three times as likely to have a relapse, as similar patients receiving only conventional treatment. The researchers later admitted that the study was flawed, but many of the women involved are campaigning for it to be scrapped.

In a letter published in *The Lancet* today, the women, members of the Bristol Survey Support Group, call for the original findings to be withdrawn. "Anger and a sense of having been used as just pawns in a game have continued for many of us, because the research team has never apologised," they say.

"Nothing short of a complete retraction can make amends for the psychological damage caused by the report, and the research workers' lack of interest in us."

The study, funded by the Imperial Cancer Research

Fund and the Cancer Research Campaign, is one of the most controversial medical research projects of recent years. A year ago this week, Tim McElwain, a leading cancer specialist who was one of the authors of the study, killed himself at his home in south London.

The research and the wide publicity it received had a devastating effect on the centre, opened by the Prince of Wales in 1983, and on many of the women who went there for a combination of group support, meditation, healing by touch, and an essentially vegetarian diet. The results seemed to show that something about the clinic's methods of complementary medicine had a harmful, perhaps fatal, effect on patients.

Last November, the researchers admitted that the study contained serious errors. Women at the centre were more ill to begin with than those receiving standard health service treatment.

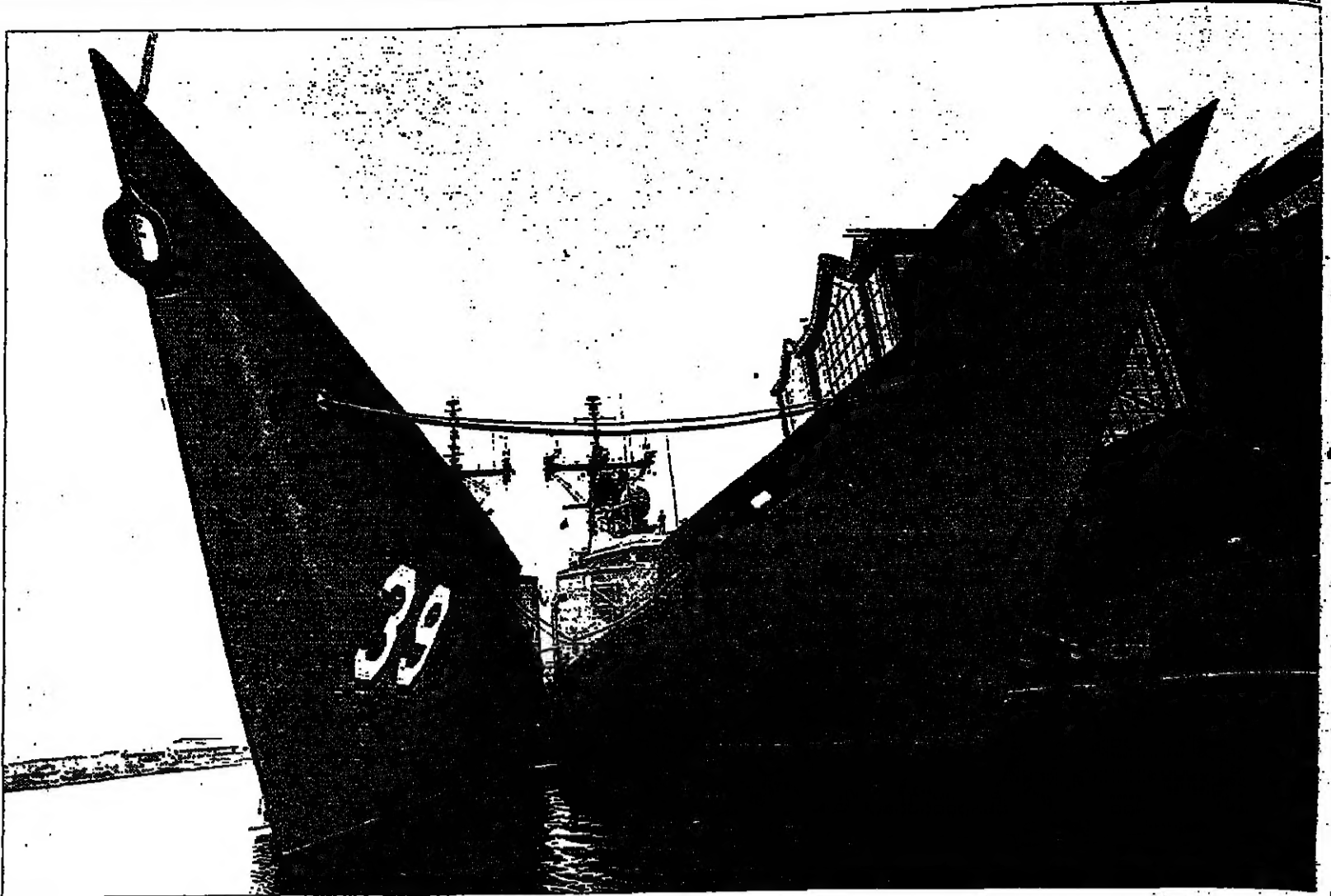
Two weeks later, Professor McElwain, aged 53, of the Royal Marsden Hospital in Chelsea, killed himself. He was a perfectionist prone to deep depression, and was receiving psychiatric treatment at the time of his death. It was said at the inquest that he took his life because of the strain arising from his work. Two weeks before his death, Professor McElwain said: "The study was not as good as it should have been... it seems unlikely that if you go to Bristol, it will do you harm."

Isla Bourke, co-author of the women's letter to *The Lancet*, went to the Bristol centre after being treated with radiotherapy for breast cancer in 1986. "It was a place where people cared, where you could go for comfort and support, and talk your illness out of your sys-

tem," she said yesterday. "The study was fundamentally flawed. We will not be satisfied until it is completely withdrawn, and we are asking the Charities Commission to investigate the way the project was conducted."

The journal carries a response from three of the researchers, led by Clair Chilvers of Nottingham University. They say that they were dismayed by the publicity surrounding the results, but strongly dispute the allegation of a lack of interest in the patients. "We felt that the statement made in our original paper was a cautious one, indicating other possible reasons for what we found. Clearly, in retrospect, it was not cautious enough."

Maria Duffy, spokeswoman for the Bristol centre, said yesterday: "It has been a hard year for all of us, but we have a waiting list of patients. We welcome the idea of an enquiry into the project if it will help maintain high standards in future research. Such research is essential, and we want to play a part in it."



Fleeting visit: the Nato warships USS Doyle, left, and SNS Santa Maria, from Spain, moored at the Isle of Dogs, east London, yesterday morning after arriving at sunrise. Open days will be held by the eight-ship squadron tomorrow and on Wednesday



McElwain: strain at work led to his suicide

Builder loses £1m battle

A Cardiff builder who claimed the government's handling of the economy had damaged his business yesterday had his claim for £1 million damages struck out in the High Court.

Mr Justice Judge ruled that Mark Harries's case should be stopped. The Treasury had applied to have the claim struck out on the grounds that it "disclosed no reasonable cause of action".

Mr Harries said: "We are going to appeal to try to change the system because I do not think the government should continue to be able to make mistakes and get away with them. I am speaking on behalf of thousands of businessmen in this country."

Mr Harries, who funded his action personally and fought off a similar attempt in September, says he now faces bankruptcy.

Joyrider dies

A youth aged 17 was killed when he lost control of a Ford Escort, believed to be stolen, after jumping traffic lights in Blackpool, Lancashire. Sean Mallon had been driving at up to 80mph the wrong way through the one-way system. His passenger, Michael Pomfret, who had just celebrated his 17th birthday, is seriously ill.

Fish hold-up

An unemployed man who tried to hold up a general store armed with a wooden fish wrapped in a carrier bag was sentenced to a year in a youth offenders' institution. Caernarvon crown court was told that James King, aged 17, of Holyhead, Anglesey, had carried out the raid with "crass ineptitude".

Beatles gold

A tape bought for £1.50 12 years ago, featuring "Yesterday Sunshine", a little-known Beatles song, and a recorded business meeting between John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Dick James, the music publisher, is expected to fetch £3,000 at an auction in Gotham, Nottinghamshire.

Museum closes

Exeter Maritime Museum, one of the world's largest collections, including the oldest working steamboat, has closed after an appeal to raise £250,000 failed.

Walker's will

Alfred Wainwright, the walker and author of guides for ramblers, who died, aged 84, in January, has left £233,816 in his will.

Colleges 'are not factories'

By David Tyler
Education Editor

UNIVERSITIES should not be judged as businesses but as centres of scholarship and learning, Sir Michael Atiyah, president of the Royal Society, said yesterday.

"Over the past decade or so universities have increasingly been treated like commercial businesses, dominated by accountancy procedures and measured by the products they produce," Sir Michael, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, told the society's anniversary meeting.

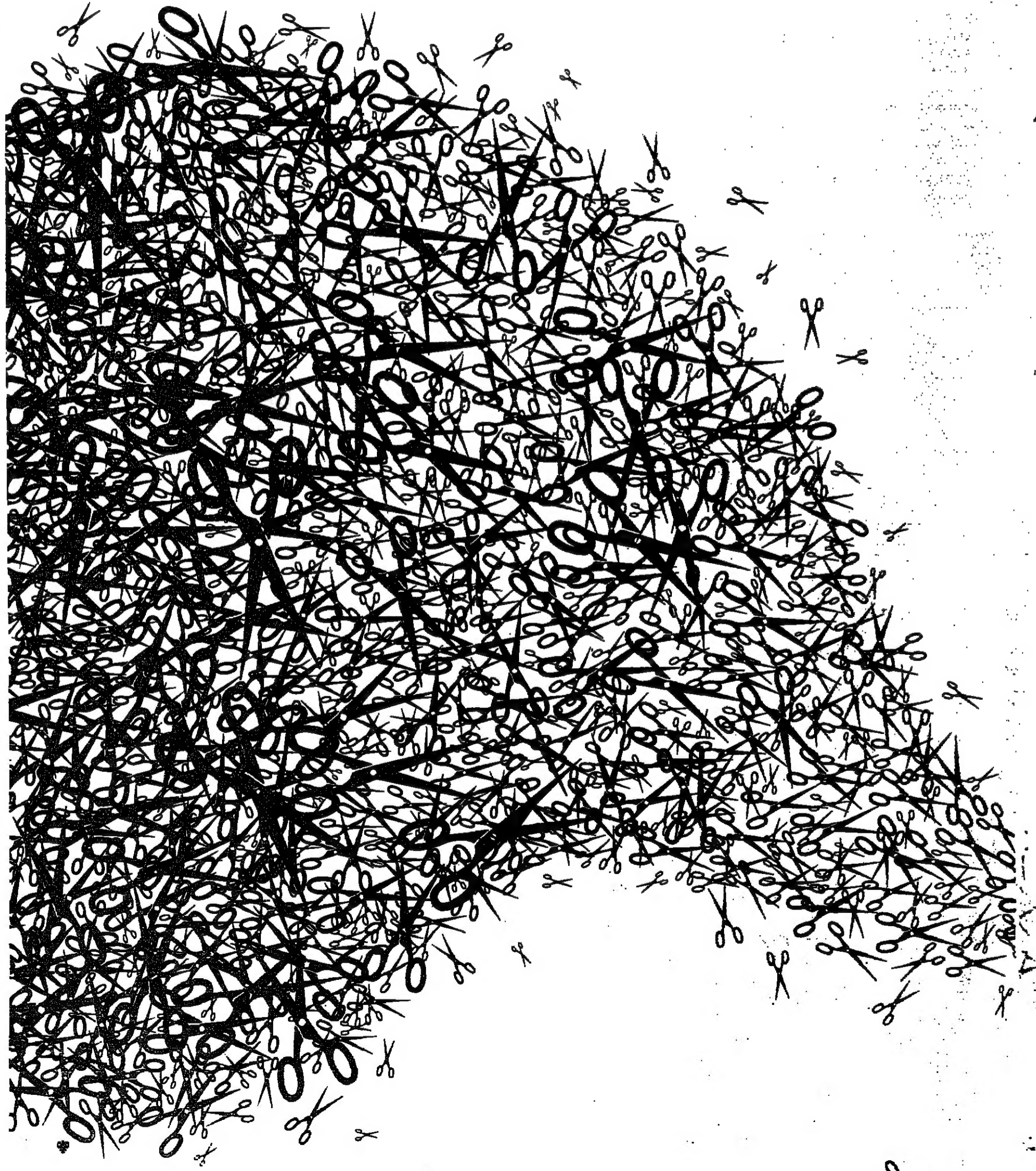
Many universities were "deeply uneasy about the present situation, not because we are irresponsible, but because we have little confidence in the foundations on which the great accountancy edifice has been built... How does one divide, count or weigh a thought?"

Universities were complex structures that concentrated on learning and thinking. "The common pursuit of learning is the spirit that animates the university and gives it its integrity. Across the centuries and across the disciplines this has been the central function of universities."

"If learning is the objective, thinking is the process. Critical and creative thoughts are the lifeblood of universities, the indispensable route to the acquisition of true knowledge and the essential ingredient in the education of our citizens."

Sir Michael questioned the dominance of external funding for research and the increasing pressures for concentration of resources. "In the early days," he said, "research council support to universities was a welcome and essential aid for research in certain fields. By now the scale and scope has shifted, and the tail is wagging the dog."

He said that the most dangerous threat to genuine university research was the growing trend to concentrate work in one or two universities. He accepted that was sometimes necessary if expensive equipment was required but said: "The danger is that a general philosophy in favour of concentration in all subjects will come to be accepted, even though it is neither necessary or appropriate."

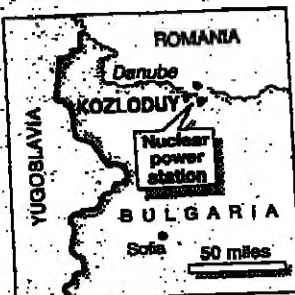


Chernobyl legacy haunts East Europe

BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

BULGARIA has bowed to Western pressure by closing down a second nuclear reactor in the accident-prone Kozloduy plant, regarded by many experts as the Chernobyl of the Balkans.

The shutdown, which will cause serious energy and heating problems this winter, highlights the poor safety standards of the many Soviet-designed nuclear reactors powering the economies of Eastern Europe. As more information leaks out about the state of these formerly top-secret plants, concern is growing in neighbouring Western countries. The 1986 meltdown in Chernobyl — which the Ukrainian parliament has voted to close down — hurt the whole continent and continues to affect the quality of health and the environment in Eastern Europe. Soviet scientists at the Institute of Medical Research in Belorussia have reported a sharp increase in thyroid cancer among children and a sharp drop in general health standards. While it is difficult to identify the extent of the effects of radiation on the poor health quality — since other factors could include



stress or poor nutrition — housewives shopping in Moscow's markets are careful not to buy produce from the Ukraine or Belorussia.

The Kozloduy plant, on the Bulgarian side of the Danube, suffers from the same problems that affected Chernobyl. There have been continuous fires, breakdowns and leaks. Reactor vessels are said to be brittle, and the system for detecting and containing radiation leaks is said to be faulty. There is also a lack of trained staff. Luchezar Poshev, of the Bulgarian Ecoglasnost group, said Kozloduy "is ten times more dangerous than Chernobyl — it is the most dangerous reactor in Europe".

That offers little reassurance for the Austrians, who

are also worried about the Bohunice plant in Czechoslovakia, 60 miles east of Vienna. Although it is reputed to be safer than the Kozloduy reactor, there were 104 reported "disturbances" at the plant last year. The most serious incident this year occurred in May when 50 litres of radioactive material leaked on to the floor from the Soviet-designed V1 reactor. There is also concern over the storage of nuclear waste since Bohunice's capacity will be exhausted in two years' time. The Soviet Union, which used to reprocess East Europe's atomic waste, now demands hard currency for the service, which is proving to be too expensive for Moscow's former allies.

Dr Zdenek Kriz, of the Czechoslovak Atomic Energy Commission, admitted recently that some of the country's plants had been built below international safety standards in the 1970s. "There was no discussion about safety," he told a recent conference. "Just an acceptance of Soviet philosophy which quietly differed on standards from the rest of the world."



Snap happy: Catrin Olsson, who is Miss Sweden, photographing Diana Tilden-Davis, her Miss South Africa rival, as Miss World contestants gathered at the national costume day in London yesterday

Miss World entrants dress to mislead

BY JOE JOSEPH

WHAT will happen if anthropologists in the 31st century use evidence gleaned from Miss World "national dress" photo-calls to get an idea of the 20th-century lifestyle? It will be odd enough if they conclude that everyone in Britain wore a shortie

Beefeater uniform. But what will they make of France's taste for grass skirts and shiny coconut-shell brassieres? Is this what Francois Mitterrand wore at state banquets? "It is my national costume because I was born in Tahiti, which is part of France," says Mareva Georges, Miss France. "Of course they're real coconut! It's just that they've been polished."

Anthropologists might use the outfit of Miss Honduras, Arlene Rocio Rauscher Duarte, to date the birth of magical realism in Latin America. "It's the costume of a Maya goddess," she says. Miss Philippines, Gemith

Gemparo, travels with ten pairs of shoes, below the national target, but probably enough to put anthropologists on the right track.

The Miss World final is in Atlanta on December 28. Sociologists will not be amazed that the 80 contestants want to devote their lives to caring for needy children.

Bobbies happy on poppy hot pot

Peking: The canteen manager of a Chinese police academy served up a stew containing opium poppy pods to try to boost business, according to the *Guizhou Daily*.

The "spicy hot pot" proved a big hit, a letter to the editor reported.

"After ordering it several times, people became addicted," the letter said. As a result drugged customers disregarded appalling hygiene in the dining rooms at Guizhou Public Security Cadres College, the writer said.

The newspaper noted in a commentary that the illegal pods were easily available in the Guizhou area in southwest China.

It did not say whether anyone had been arrested. (Reuters)

Wrong notes

Hanoi: Two Vietnamese government officials have been sacked for allowing 130 "reactionary" songs to circulate, some of them praising South Vietnamese soldiers who fought the communists, the official *Afternoon News* reported. (Reuters)

Felix's fault

Felixstowe: A letter from one side of Felixstowe to the other took three months, clocking up 25,000 miles via Felixton in South Africa and Felixstow in South Australia. (Reuters)

Family man

Buffalo: A man who videotaped his rape of a 13-year-old girl was sentenced to 30 weekends in jail. A New York state supreme court judge admitted the punishment was light, but said it was aimed at keeping the man's children out of foster care. (AP)

Fixed agenda

Paris: Some 300 striking employees blockaded a building for several hours where Bernard Attali, the chairman of Air France, was holding a management meeting, until he promised to discuss their grievances, a company spokesman said. (Reuters)

All about Eve

Wellington: There was standing-room only when people lined up to buy hugs and kisses from Eve Van Graffhorst, a nine-year-old who became HIV positive after receiving a blood transfusion at birth in an Australian hospital. New Zealanders paid the equivalent of 15p a kiss to raise funds as part of World Aids Day tomorrow. (AP)

PEOPLE

Respect learned

The Princess Royal believes that a lack of understanding of modern law may have led to a lack of respect for it. "If you can't understand what the law is saying and what the law means, there is a major problem for society itself," she said, delivering the 1991 Churchill lecture of the English Speaking Union in London.

Sir Alastair Morton, the Eurotunnel chief executive, said of the arrival of high-speed foreign trains in the late 1990s: "This country is going to go berserk with humiliation in 1993 when the monster trains arrive in England and get stuck behind the likes of the 6.43 from Ashford via Tunbridge Wells. It's going to look ridiculous and be ridiculous."

Imelda Marcos has said that the Philippines government pressed hotel managers to evict her from a \$2,000-a-day (£1,130) hotel suite, so she is moving to a modest two-storey concrete house. Horacio Paredes, President Corason Aquino's press undersecretary, denied Mrs Marcos's accusation, saying: "I don't think she is talking any sense."

Jeremy Guscott, the England rugby centre, Lucinda Cowden, alias Melanie Pearson the *Neighbours* star, and

Gavin Campbell from *That's Life*, launched the British Gas Kately '92 yesterday in aid of spinal research. Tiger the Cat, a lovable star of Stephen Spielberg's latest animated feature, *An American Tail: Fievel Goes West*, was there with two friends: Louise Sugden aged seven, who broke her back in a car accident, and Shannon Murray, aged 15, who suffered a broken neck in a diving accident.

Marvin Mitchelson, the famous pallimony lawyer, has been cleared of rape charges by a Los Angeles jury. The charges were brought in 1986 by Kirsten Barrett-Whitney, who said the attack took place in Mr Mitchelson's office. After the verdict, an outraged Mr Mitchelson said of Miss Barrett-Whitney: "She sues people. This is what she does for a living."

Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel peace prize winner who has been held under house arrest in Burma since before she won elections as leader of the pro-democracy opposition, will be allowed to receive letters from her family, a Thai official said yesterday. Her husband, British-born Michael Aris, who is currently visiting professor at Harvard, requested correspondence privileges through the Thai prime minister, Anand Panyarachun. The Burmese have insisted that any letters be sent unsealed.

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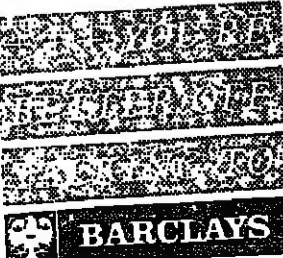
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Ukrainians weigh up advantages of severing historic links with Russia in independence referendum

Republic decides Union's future

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Ukraine votes tomorrow on two issues that could change the face of Eastern and Central Europe no less than the breaching of the Berlin Wall. Voters are choosing a directly elected president, and deciding whether the republic will stay in a new Soviet Union.

The outcome will determine not only the nature of the Ukraine, but the future borders and character of the state in the territory of the old Soviet Union. As Soviet officials are well aware, the Ukraine is not really comparable to the Baltic states. With its 52-million population (nearly 20 per cent of the present Soviet total) and more than 233,000 square miles of territory, including a long border and much rich agricultural land, it matters economically, strategically and politically. It cannot be replaced by building more ports, rerouting pipelines, and transferring troops.

Such is the importance of the republic that President Gorbachev has expressed dismay at America's reported intention to recognise the Ukraine if it votes for independence.

Moscow officials realise that undue lobbying by them could do much to tip the balance in favour of nationalism and independence. Apart from Mr Gorbachev's wistful hopes that he "cannot conceive of a Soviet Union without the Ukraine" and remarks from aides that Ukrainian independence will be considered if and when it happens, comment from Moscow has been sparse.

This week, Mr Gorbachev's aide, Georgi Shakhnazarov, said a Ukrainian vote for independence need not be taken any more seriously than existing declarations of independence from sundry Central Asian republics. He also cited an opinion

poll suggesting that 55 per cent of the residents of Kiev would vote in favour of staying in the Union. His remarks seemed to confirm that the old centre is watching closely and refusing, as yet, to panic.

The presidential election will offer little more than a barometer of the political mood. All candidates are running on a nationalist, independence and non-communist ticket. The variations are of degree, and political experience. If, as expected,



Leonid Kravchuk, the current leader, wins, Moscow will be relieved to be dealing with an experienced political operator. Anyone else, even Vyacheslav Chornovil, the west Ukrainian leader and former political prisoner, would bring uncertainty.

Moscow, whether in the shape of Mr Gorbachev or Boris Yeltsin, knows it will have to deal with a strongly nationalistic Ukraine, that economic and military agreements will be subject to tough negotiation, and that thoughts of Muscovite hegemony must be abandoned. The Ukraine's furious reaction to Russia's suggestion back in August that borders might have to be renegotiated if republics became independent demonstrated the sensitivity of relations.

A vote for full independence is not a foregone conclusion. The threat of reduced energy supplies, steep price increases and possibly hostile neighbours may deter the faint-hearted. But the rise of nationalist sentiment seems to have brought the Ukraine to the point of psychological independence.

If a sizeable proportion of the 11-million strong Russian population votes for independence — on the ground that nothing could be worse than things are at present and that a westward-looking Ukraine would be better than an eastward-looking Russia — the Ukraine will look for "real" independence, in the form of international recognition. Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin oppose outright Ukrainian independence. However, it would be more easily accommodated by Mr Yeltsin's loose confederative model of a new Union than by Mr Gorbachev's new Union.

A large vote for independence which did not include the Russian population would put Moscow in the most difficult position because it would raise the border question. Because much of the Ukraine's heavy industry and natural resources are in the southeast, any territorial concession would also alter the balance of the republic's economy — initially, at least, for the worse. One certainty is that if the Ukraine becomes independent, the Soviet Union will be no more. Russia would be the dominant partner in a Russia-Asia bloc. Central Europe would stretch towards the Russian heartland and only the present weakness of Poland and Russia would prevent a resurgence of the ancient struggle over the borderlands.

Saturday Review, page 12



Read all about it: a Kiev woman distributing pamphlets before today's Ukrainian presidential election and independence referendum

Apparatchik airs nationalist credentials

Ukrainians, in the face of a barrage of gaudy propaganda, have lived the reality of empty shelves in the election run-up. Robert Seely writes in Kiev

THE Ukraine's six presidential candidates wound up their campaigns yesterday as the republic's voters prepared to choose the first freely elected leader in their country's history tomorrow. They will also vote in an independence referendum which is expected to break the three centuries of union between the Ukraine and Russia.

The elections in many parts of the Ukraine have been a low-key affair, suiting the depressed mood of the republic and the continued shortages of basic goods. "They all speak a lot, I've seen them on the television and radio," said Anna Dechenko, aged 42, a worker on a collective. "They all say good things but our shops are empty and our salaries small." Throughout Kiev,

brightly coloured pink, yellow and blue slogans, similar to pre-perestroika propaganda, are encouraging Ukrainians to vote. "Independence is the path of fairness, humanity and historical brotherhood," declared one poster outside the opera house. At Wednesday's football match between Dynamo Kiev and Benfica, the Portuguese side, the Kiev supporters' stand was covered in a sea of blue and yellow flags.

Other placards hanging from tram wires or stuck on walls in the city endorsed the candidacy of Leonid Krav-

chuk, the Ukraine's current political leader, an apparatchik who has dominated media coverage of the presidential campaign amid accusations that he has ethically used his wide contacts within the former Communist party. Denying he is an opportunist, Mr Kravchuk said at a press conference yesterday: "It is only natural for a man to change his views as he gets older."

He confirmed that, as president, he would not enter into close political alliance with Russia or any other

country. "There is no need to bow to [Russian leader Boris] Yeltsin after the December 1 referendum," he added. Mr Kravchuk's message of stability — ridiculously unrealistic, given that the Ukrainian government must introduce swift and far-reaching reform to rebuild its economy — has reassured an electorate of 37 million scared of change and scarred by a century of violence. He is guaranteed to be the clear winner tomorrow, although whether he will break the 50 per cent mark needed to avoid a run-off with Vyacheslav Chornovil, his main democratic rival, is touch and go. Mr Chornovil, a former political prisoner and dissident, has been campaigning strongly on a nationalistic line, condemning Mr Kravchuk for his Communist past

and allegedly bland economic reform plans. "Stabilisation is a propagandistic lie. We can't afford to stabilise because the level of economic paralysis is so high," Mr Chornovil said at his last sparsely attended public meeting in Kiev's cinematographers' club yesterday. Mr Chornovil's nationalistic vocabulary has been guaranteed to alienate the conservative, Russified belt of the Ukraine which stretches along the Black Sea coast and through the eastern part of the republic. "Ukrainian nationalists are dangerous. We Slavs have lived together for a long time and we don't accept nationalism," said Viktor Lesovoy, a senior steward working at the Lenin steelworks in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine.

Paris puts troops on Togo alert

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FRANCE sent 300 combat troops to the border of Togo yesterday in apparent preparation for military intervention to protect French nationals caught between factions battling for power in the West African state.

An estimated 3,000 French live in Togo, most of them in the capital, Lomé, where Joseph Kokou Koffi, the prime minister, has been holed up in his official residence after rebel soldiers announced the removal of his transitional government, which is strongly backed by Paris. It was not clear if France was prepared to intervene militarily on his behalf, which he wants.

Looters strip Vukovar's ruins

FROM BILL FROST IN VUKOVAR

LOOTERS have descended on Vukovar to strip every last item of value from the eastern Croatian town stormed last week by the Serb-led Yugoslav federal army.

The looters came in army transports, civilian lorries, vans and stolen private cars to take all they could. Under the unconcerned eyes of federal troops the looters filled their vehicles with television sets, videos, stereo equipment, canned goods, drink, cigarettes and furniture from those shops and houses which had not been flattened during the three-month bombardment. An army sentry at a checkpoint in the middle of a desolate suburb said: "Just take what you want, do what you want. Everybody else is."

Outside a small supermarket, a human chain of looters shifted booty from a shattered window to a 20-ton



Battle scarred: an elderly Vukovar citizen peering around his bullet-riddled front door

lorry. The old man lifting the case of mineral water bottles barely looked up when asked what was happening. "What do you think — were you born yesterday?" he demanded with some contempt. Close to the flattened centre of Vukovar Serb irregulars drove cars left behind by the

town's inhabitants. They appeared to believe they were on a dogfight ride at a fairground. They squealed round corners and braked sharply to avoid numerous shell craters, laughing wildly.

Across the little that is left of the town, a group of Cheniks, extreme Serb nationalists, were enjoying a picnic of local brandy and uncooked sausages at a road junction checkpoint. Fully armed, drunk and suspicious, few would have dared to argue when they demanded to search the vehicle.

A Chenik, weighed down with grenades, several large knives and sidearms, released a large dog. The animal jumped into the car, ostensibly to sniff for explosives. Having completed its inspection, it urinated and then sat growling in the driver's seat for five minutes before the laughing handler could coax it out.

Each street in Vukovar bears witness to the devastation wrought by both sides in the civil war. Barely a build-

ing stands; those that do have been razed by machinegun fire or disfigured beyond repair by artillery, rockets or mortars. Battered pig and cow carcasses are everywhere among the spent shells and abandoned weapons.

A few old civilians wander among the soldiers and looters. They talk to themselves and sob alongside the piles of debris and dirt which were once their homes.

At a wine cellar in the east of the town, Chenik fighters insisted that we should inspect a haul of Croatian weaponry discovered on Thursday morning. There were slabs of Semtex explosive, bundles of dynamite, landmines, and crates full of Molotov cocktails.

One Chenik, his black cap at a rakish angle and his breath reeking of alcohol, waved a Molotov cocktail from side to side. "You see this? In this confined space with all these other explosives we could blow what's left of Vukovar to hell," he said. Eventually the device was returned to the crate, but not before a macabre game of "throw-the-landmine" had been completed, with the Cheniks tossing the high explosive charges from one to another.

The federal authorities have grandiose plans to rebuild Vukovar. Government officials and businessmen unveiled the details during the week. Perhaps they should listen to one of the town's former inhabitants. He told a Belgrade newspaper: "The town is dead, let it go to hell. But let it never be forgotten."

Diary, page 12
Zagreb withdrawal, page 18
Saturday Review, page 20

Kirgizia leader dies in crash

Moscow: Nasiridin Isanov, aged 49, prime minister of the Central Asian republic of Kirgizia, died yesterday in a road accident between Osh and Dzhalsalab.

He was driving with a representative of the American Slabek Group, who are considering credits for Kirgizia, to the Makmak Zoloto gold mine to confirm that guarantees offered by the republic would be reliable. (AP)

Extradition plea

Paris: France and Germany will ask Syria to extradite Alois Brunner, a Nazi war criminal believed to have lived in Damascus since 1955. He was deputy to Adolf Eichmann, who ran the Jewish extermination plan. (AFP)

Honecker plea

Hamburg: Erich Honecker, the former East German communist leader, has been meeting the Chilean ambassador in Moscow to find out if he might be able to live in Chile with his daughter Margot. Bild said. (AP)

High spirits

Helsinki: A Finnair airliner was unable to take off in Paris because bags of whisky and vodka bottles smuggled on board by the pilot jammed the controls, aviation officials said. The pilot has been grounded. (AP)

Actor dies

Los Angeles: Ralph Bellamy, the supporting star of more than 100 films, has died at 87 of a chronic lung illness. (Reuters)

China hits at Major on Dalai Lama talks

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

PEKING is "very concerned" at the prospect of John Major meeting the Dalai Lama next week, the first time a British prime minister will have talks with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader.

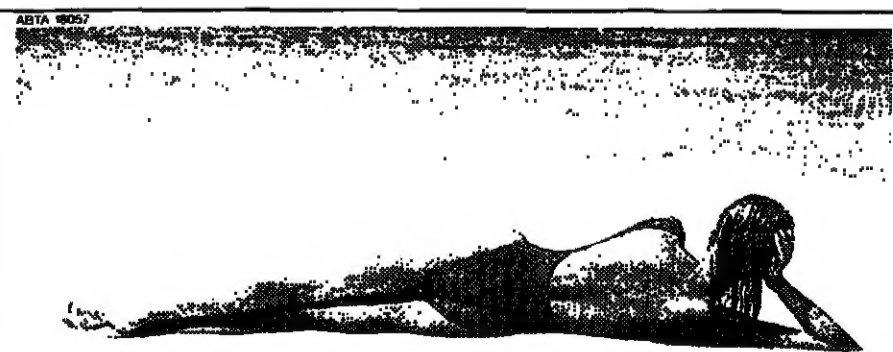
Tian Zengpei, the Chinese deputy foreign minister, made China's displeasure known to Lord Calhoun, the Foreign Office minister visiting Peking on a familiarisation trip. Lord Calhoun said that he told his Chinese counterparts that the meeting between the Dalai Lama and Mr Major would be "purely a spiritual meeting in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury". To journalists he admitted, however, that "a lot will be discussed about human rights, but that is different from politics".

British diplomats say that the meeting will be a demonstration of concern about human rights abuses in Tibet.

reflecting an increasing emphasis on the importance of human rights worldwide. A British official pointed out that, as a result, "the Dalai Lama is meeting people he has not previously met".

Lord Calhoun told Mr Tian that Mr Major's meeting did not mark a fundamental change in Britain's attitude to the issue of Tibetan sovereignty. His attempts at reassurance, however, brought a tough statement from Mr Tian, who condemned any meetings between Western leaders and the Dalai Lama, whom he accused of attempting to divide China.

Lord Calhoun, whose special responsibility is Hong Kong, said Chinese officials were also concerned about the possibility of democrats recently elected to Hong Kong's legislative council holding high office there.



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£200 -	£10
up to £200	£10

Felipe takes Don John's lead

FROM HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

FELIPE González, the Spanish prime minister, under attack for his infrequent visits to parliament, has promised to mend his ways and adopt the British style — appearing at least as often as John Major does in the Commons.

Señor González made the promise this week during one of his rare appearances before the Chamber of Deputies, when he also explained his position on the forthcoming Maastricht summit on European political and economic union. The Spanish leader appeared after parlia-

mentary discussion last week in his absence, in which the main opposition, the conservative Popular party, had threatened to withhold its support on a consensus summit position unless the government offered a more complete explanation of its negotiating position.

Last Tuesday, Señor González had announced his intention of attending a parliamentary debate on the growing drug problem. However, in what was apparently a last-minute change of plan, he decided instead to spend

the afternoon and evening at his residence learning more about bonnais — his hobby — from a visiting Japanese expert on the subject, Masahiko Kimura. His political opponents were especially annoyed because the man chosen to speak for the government in that debate, Julián García Valverde, the minister of health, is currently under investigation over irregular property dealings, in which he was involved when he was the chairman of the Spanish national railway network.

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Syria raises tension with nuclear plan

By RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM
AND CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

ISRAEL hinted yesterday that it may back down on its refusal to attend next week's planned Middle East peace talks in Washington, but new tension has appeared between Damascus and Jerusalem with an announcement in Peking that China plans to sell Syria a nuclear reactor.

The Israeli authorities, in a message to Washington, have responded angrily to the announcement. They do not object to the proposed 30-kilowatt miniature neutron reactor as such; it is no military capability and will be used primarily for neutron activation analysis and other research work. However, Israel is concerned that Syrian scientists will acquire technological expertise which could one day help Damascus to develop nuclear weapons.

"It is very regrettable to see that the world still has not learned the size of the danger in providing a nuclear reactor and know-how to countries run by totalitarian dictators," one Israeli official was quoted as saying in *Davar*, the Hebrew daily.

"It was not long ago that we saw what such rulers are capable of doing when they achieve non-conventional capability. This is a negative trend and it is very important that it be stopped so that the peace process can be advanced," he said.

These fears were supported by John Large, an independent nuclear expert, based in London. "They will be using highly enriched fuels such as uranium and plutonium. These can be used to create the isotopes used in nuclear weapons. Although the reactor may sound small and only capable of lighting a few light bulbs, it is not size which counts, rather the amounts of fuel that are used," he said.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said that the government's decision not to send its negotiating team to

Washington until December 9, five days after the scheduled talks are to begin, had not changed. But talks were taking place with Washington to reach a compromise. "You can be sure that we will do everything so that we do not miss this chance, but also we must safeguard our rights and our security," he said.

The right-wing coalition government could reconsider its controversial decision when the full cabinet meets at its weekly session tomorrow. Among the compromises suggested is the sending of a junior delegation to a preliminary meeting on Wednesday, followed later by the full resumption of bilateral dialogue with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Although Mr Shamir's plan to postpone Israel's participation was originally greeted with some approval by right-wing Israelis, who thought their leader had been poorly treated during a recent visit to Washington, it is now dawning on most Israelis that the country cannot afford to be seen in the eyes of the world as the main obstacle to peace in the region. Israel not only risks handing its Arab foes a propaganda victory, but jeopardises chances of American approval for \$10 billion loan guarantees to help absorb immigrants.

Israel's apparent intransigence was highlighted yesterday when the Palestinian delegation to Washington set off to Amman for consultations in an apparently conciliatory mood. Halder Abdel Shafi, the leader, promised to consider moving the venue of the talks to the Middle East, as Israel has requested, but said there had first to be progress in Washington.

"If they are not going to come until the ninth, certainly we are going to wait. We will go to the negotiating table and sit there and wait," he said.

EC urged to allow drug use

London: European Community countries should legalise possession of small amounts of drugs that are for personal use, a committee of the European parliament recommended yesterday after an extensive study of drug use in Europe (David Wans writes). The report also called on European governments to provide drug users with free access to special medical care and free syringes.

The study said possession of illegal drugs "in small quantities for personal use should not be considered as a criminal offence".

Bomb suspect

Wellington: New Zealand says an accord over the two convicted French secret agents who blew up the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* does not apply to Gerald Andrieu, also allegedly involved, recently arrested in Switzerland. (Reuters)

Patient dies

Palo Alto, California: The longest-surviving heart transplant patient, Willem Van Buren, died aged 62, nearly 22 years after his surgery, Stanford University medical centre said. He had suffered chest pains and developed pneumonia. (Reuters)

Strike ignored

Delhi: A one-day nationwide strike called by the left-wing trade unions in India to protest at the increasing privatisation of the economy and the feared privatisation of the public sector received little support, with disruption only in West Bengal.

Activists held

Karachi: Police arrested more than 2,000 political activists in Pakistan's southern province of Sindh, including senior officials of the opposition Pakistan People's Party led by Benazir Bhutto. The party called a general strike for today in protest.

Killer jailed

Sydney: John Wayne Glover, aged 59, a pie salesman who terrorised elderly women here for a year, was jailed for life for murdering six of them. The press had dubbed him the "Granny Killer" — all but one of his victims was aged more than 80. (Reuters)

Captain Kohl points Major to river of unity

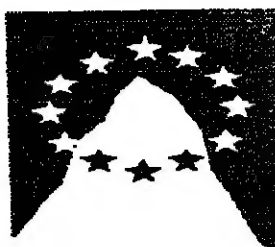
EUROPEAN integration has been compared to almost every form of transport known to man. As the European Community approaches any moment of truth, Britain usually stands accused of being about to miss the next train, boat, plane or even bicycle. Now, before the Maastricht summit, John Major is being offered a choice between a conveyor belt and a river.

The river is the metaphor for the unification of Europe chosen by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. The significance of his choice is more than just a matter of Herr Kohl's folksy style, for the German leader can make or break the summit.

Last Sunday, he was asked by French television whether Europe could be more easily united without the inconvenience of having to include the reluctant British. Pointing out of the window of his office in Bonn, Herr Kohl said that current of European history was like the river Rhine.

You could divert or block the water, but eventually it would reach the sea. "And in the same way," the chancellor concluded, "European history will end in European unity." British

The Maastricht summit has effectively already begun, with the protagonists criss-crossing Europe to thrash out their stances, George Brock writes



COUNTDOWN TO MAASTRICHT

reservations were really not a problem, he implied.

Margaret Thatcher and Europe's most ambitious federalists such as Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, see the future in more mechanical terms. Federalists, having watched much of the stuffing knocked out of the political union treaty, want to transfer more sovereignty to Brussels later in the 1990s to compensate for the failure to agree changes now.

But how far would the chancellor push

Major might emerge unscathed from Maastricht but then be carried off by a remorseless conveyor belt leading to a federal state.

The real battle of Maastricht lies more in the realm of image than in the small print of the treaty text. Will the outcome be as flexible as Herr Kohl's gentle, meandering river — and thus something which both Mr Major and the federalists can all claim to support? Or will the chancellor be persuaded to insist on putting ratchets and cogs into the treaty that ensure a steady transfer of power to the EC and away from the states?

No sooner had the chancellor used his easygoing river metaphor than German diplomats were bustling round Brussels stressing that Germany wanted to make sure that integration was truly irreversible by building a binding federal timetable into the treaty. But how far would the chancellor push



Playing hard: Mitterrand, right, is putting a tougher squeeze on Major than Kohl, left

Mr Major and insist on this machinery? Herr Kohl himself may not decide until he reaches Maastricht.

The summit has to all intents and purposes already begun, since prime ministers are now criss-crossing European airspace every day to discuss the treaty. Foreign and finance ministers meet from tomorrow until Tuesday for their final drafting sessions before Maastricht. European socialist and Christian Democrat leaders both hold conclaves next week. The two-day meeting at Maa-

tricht will be the last lap.

Many of the meetings which do not involve Mr Major are devoted to answering a single question about the British prime minister's behaviour: how far can he be pushed? President Mitterrand of France yesterday waved a threat apparently much tougher than any squeeze yet attempted by Herr Kohl.

If Britain dragged its feet too long, he told the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, it would be left out. Political union without Britain was "conceivable, but not

desirable". But in spite of such intimidation and although at least half a dozen issues of principle remain divisive, a deal at Maastricht is increasingly probable. Neither France, Germany nor the influential Christian Democrat bloc show signs of wanting to back Mr Major into a corner.

Both President Mitterrand and Herr Kohl badly need a success from Maastricht. What they and Mr Major are now looking for is a set of formulae elastic enough to allow everybody to proclaim a victory.

A senior British official said: "Unusually for the time just before a summit, there doesn't seem to be a lot of posturing and hardening of positions. People really seem to want a deal." That does not guarantee that the battered Dutch government, which is drafting the treaty and chairing the summit, can choreograph a completely harmonious meeting. The political union treaty has a bundle of loose ends. There is no sign of any compromise on Britain's insistence on no new EC powers to make labour or welfare law, least of all by majority vote.

Victory for Britain, page 1

A spirited testimonial for Gore-Tex® fabric. From a man who came back from the dead.

"I am alive! I am alive!" yelled the snowy figure rising to its feet. Moments later, Keizo Funatsu of Osaka, Japan was safely back in the arms of his tearful colleagues.

Just 16 miles away from the finish, the 1990 International Trans-Antarctica Expedition had nearly ended in disaster.

At 4.30pm, the previous afternoon (13½ hours earlier), Keizo had walked out in a blinding snowstorm to check his dogs.

Losing his way between ski markers, he was disorientated in the raging whiteout.

A skilled survivor, Keizo knew there was only one way to stay alive. He must bury himself.

Scraping a shallow trench with pliers, the only tool he had, he curled up in it like a sled dog allowing the swirling snow to completely cover him.

At 6pm, they knew he was gone. Clenching a rope tied to a sled, the men circled slowly, shouting his name into the blizzard "Keizo! - Keizo! - Keizo!"

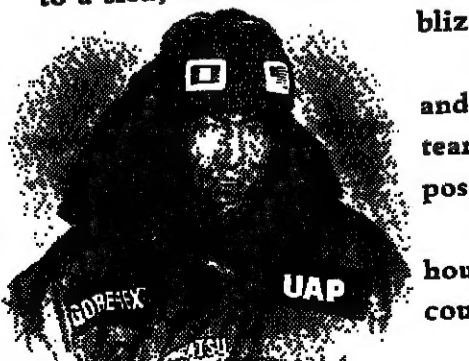
Hampered by darkness, storm and a temperature of -29°C, the team with the greatest reluctance, postponed its search at 10.30pm.

Another seven and a half hours would elapse before he could rejoin the land of the living.

His own words tell it best.

"Finally, I heard the voice outside, the ditch and I knew they were close to me...I was very happy to see my friends...everybody had watering eyes, crying and wet. I cried, yes I cried too!"

A happy ending. But the hole which he had frantically dug to survive could so very easily have been his tomb.



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Smith rape trial will focus spotlight on the Kennedy clan



Smith: fate eclipsed by the family subplot

AFTER an eight-month torrent of advance publicity, the curtain will finally rise in Palm Beach on Monday on the trial of William Kennedy Smith, an epic as much about America's disenchantment with the Kennedy clan as with the actions of a young man last Easter Saturday.

Mr Smith, a soft-spoken medical graduate aged 31, faces up to 15 years in prison if the jury convicts him of raping the woman with whom he had sex on the lawn of La Guerdia, the crumbling beachfront mansion bought by Joseph Kennedy, the patriarch of the dynasty, 50 years ago. Mr Smith's lawyers say the woman is promiscuous and mentally unstable. They face

Moira Lasch, a stern prosecutor determined to prevail over what she calls "the Kennedy machine".

The fate of Mr Smith is eclipsed by the emotional subplot that will be played out in the tiny courtroom and broadcast live on television. As hard as Roy Black, the chief of the million-dollar defence team, is fighting to keep the Kennedy ghosts at bay, the whole clan is being brought to book for its transgressions. Nothing could rivet the country more than the spectacle of Kennedy's colliding with the obsession of the year in America: bad behaviour by men towards women.

The climax of the political drama will come, probably next week, when the ultra-prim prosecutor interrogates Senator Edward

Charles Bremner in Palm Beach writes that America is riveted by the case that has put a dynasty in the dock for its history of womanising

Kennedy on his Good Friday crawl through the bars of Palm Beach with his son Patrick and Mr Smith, his nephew. He will be asked about the girls they met, the whisky he drank and whether or not he wore any trousers as he wandered around La Guerdia. A beating in the witness box could doom his flagging political career.

In keeping with the circus-like atmosphere, local watering holes, overrun this weekend by an army of reporters, are offering a range of "Teddy" cocktails. You

can also find "Lupo Lemon" ice-cream, named after Judge Mary Lupo, a tap-dancing fan and devout church-goer nicknamed Bloody Mary, who has been in constant conflict with Mrs Lasch through months of hearings and jury selection.

"We have a fear that people will hold Chappaquiddick against Will Smith," said Mr Black, a Miami lawyer whose avuncular charm is in stark contrast to the icy demeanour of Mrs Lasch. Mr Black and

his team are depicting Mr Smith as a naive man who was influenced by his uncle's excesses. Chappaquiddick, the 1969 accident in which a woman was drowned in the senator's car, stands for all the "womanising" the Kennedy brothers are deemed guilty of, as well as the power which enabled them to flout the law.

With no hard evidence of injury, the case is a classic test of the doctrine of "date rape". The six-member jury must decide who to believe. The woman, an unmarried mother who lives on an income from her wealthy stepfather, says she did not consent to the intercourse which took place after she accompanied Mr Smith home from the Au Bar club

at 3am, removed her tights for a walk on the beach and kissed him. She was leaving when she says Mr Smith tackled her from behind and raped her between a pair of palm trees.

The press has been full of tales of Mr Smith's reputation for aggressiveness towards young women and the prosecutor has released statements from three who say he sexually assaulted them. The woman's underwear is the most important evidence, say the defence, because it shows no damage. They maintain that she became enraged when Mr Smith called her by the wrong name and they are calling her former fiancé to testify to a hatred of the Kennedys that they say stemmed from an old feud

between the dynasty and her Irish-Catholic stepfather. No American trial has been subject to so much publicity or the involvement of resources so disproportionate to the needs of the case. Few television viewers have anything left to learn about Palm Beach's demi-world of nightclubs, fortune-hunting women and fast-living men. Airline pilots flying down the coast are telling their passengers: "On the left you will see Palm Beach, scene of The Trial."

Indifference is also being voiced at the other end of the scale. Florence Orbach, a pensioner who was interviewed for the jury, put it best in a now celebrated remark to the judge: "Who cares who diddle who?"

Mood of urgency in South Africa

Constitutional talks make fast progress

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa formally began creating a post-apartheid society yesterday with a sense of urgency instilled by political violence in black communities and threats of revolt by the white right wing.

Leaders of the government and of the other 20 parties involved made swift progress at a preparatory conference yesterday in advance of talks on the constitution. They agreed that the first round of the negotiations proper should be held at a trade centre near Johannesburg on December 20 and 21 and decided that the negotiations should be known as the convention for a democratic South Africa.

A notable absentee from yesterday's session was the right-wing Conservative party, which on Thursday won a by-election at Virginia in the Orange Free State by a large majority. Andries Treurnicht, the Conservative leader, hailed the capture of the ruling National party seat as vindication of his party's refusal to negotiate any form of power-sharing with South Africa's black majority.

Kobus Beyers, the successful Conservative candidate, said the poll showed that "white voters want nothing to do with [President] F.W. de Klerk's new South Africa, and will never accept majority rule". But National party leaders said the result had more to do with depressed local economic conditions than with the government's reform process and represented a victory of emotion over reason. Political analysts, however, concluded that the right wing now has the sup-

port of about half the white electorate and has become a force to be reckoned with.

While the preliminary talks were taking place at an airport hotel near Johannesburg, various right-wing groups held a secret conclave to co-ordinate resistance to the reform process. Their bellicose mood was summed up by Robert van Tonder, the leader of the Boerestaat (Boer State) party, who claimed that most members of the police and armed forces had turned against the government. "The two pillars on which the government has rested so far will help to oust it, if de Klerk continues to act against the will of the people," he said.

Zach de Beer, the liberal Democratic party leader, said the election result meant that



Ramaphosa: looking towards good outcome

Mr de Klerk "must go flat out and get a new constitution settled and in place as fast as he can". If there were a general election now, "it would be a pretty close-run thing, but

there is not going to be another white election".

The message seemed to get through to the preparatory conference, which brushed aside procedural difficulties raised by the radical Pan Africanist Congress and appointed two senior judges as co-chairmen of the meeting. Delegates suggested that Mr Justice Ismael Mohammed and Mr Justice B.J. Schabert may also be invited to chair the forthcoming constitutional negotiations.

Pretoria sent two delegations, one representing the government, and the other the National party, but the tactical sleight of hand had no apparent effect on the general optimism. Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general of the African National Congress, said: "We are looking forward to a very good outcome. The process is really kicking off in the most positive way we could have hoped for."

Gerrit Viljoen, the minister of constitutional development, agreed. "We feel very positive. We have put in a lot of preparatory work, and we should make good progress," he said.

Two issues will dominate the constitutional negotiations: who should draft the constitution, and who should govern the country in the interim.

Mr Ramaphosa spoke ardently yesterday in favour of an elected constituent assembly which, he said, would ensure that the constitution-makers would have the support of the entire population. Pretoria is firmly opposed to any such elected body, which would almost inevitably be dominated by the ANC and its allies.

There seems more likelihood of compromise on power-sharing during the transition period, since Mr de Klerk has accepted the principle of bringing other parties into government at executive level. One possibility under discussion is to invest legislative powers in the constitutional conference.



Victims' message: a boy carried on a cross symbolises the fate of street children in Rio de Janeiro as they protest against the death squads of off-duty police and freelance security guards hired by city merchants to combat break-ins and vandalism

UN Cambodia force retreats

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a peaceful, democratic Cambodia were dealt another body blow yesterday when United Nations peacekeepers were withdrawn from frontline positions.

The withdrawal, reported from the northwestern town of Battambang, came because of fears of revenge attacks by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in response to the attack on Khieu Samphan and other members of the Khmer Rouge leadership after their return to Phnom Penh earlier in the week.

The peace agreement was already under severe pressure after the escape of the Khmer Rouge leaders. The inability of the UN forces to hold their positions is likely to call into question the whole future of the \$1 billion (\$565 million) operation which is to begin in earnest next March.

The 34 French and Australian troops making up the UN force were ordered to return to

Phnom Penh only two days after arriving in Battambang, Cambodia's second biggest town. They were part of an advance mission in Cambodia and had been deployed to establish radio links between the UN and Cambodian army headquarters.

The withdrawal came as Son Sann, the leader of one of the non-communist Cambodian factions, urged the rapid deployment of UN peacekeeping forces to save the country's peace agreement. "I ask UNTAC [the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to come as soon as possible with as many people as possible," he said.

In Panay, Thailand, yesterday, Hun Sen, the Cambodian prime minister, took responsibility for the violence which drove the Khmer Rouge leaders out of his country. He promised to provide them with a safe residence if they returned.

Tax-fraud politician is jailed

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

A FORMER Japanese cabinet minister received a punitive prison term yesterday for evading 1.7 billion yen (£7.4 million) in income tax from stock speculation profits while in office.

In a landmark case against Japan's tradition of money politics, Toshiyuki Inamura, the environment minister in 1986-7, was sentenced to three years and four months with hard labour, without possibility of remission. Inamura was the first politician to receive such a prison term, seen as a warning to others, since Kakuei Tanaka, a former prime minister, was convicted in the 1976 Lockheed bribery scandal. Sentences in tax evasion cases are usually suspended in Japan on pledges of future good conduct.

"The defendant betrayed the people by evading his duty to pay taxes," said Judge Shigeru Matsura at the Tokyo district court. Inamura, who had pleaded guilty, asked for leniency on the ground that politicians required huge funds to stay in office and that he had shown remorse by resigning from his seat in the lower house.

"No exception shall be made for politicians. Businessmen also need funds to expand their businesses," Mr Matsura said. He added that he also rejected leniency on the ground that Inamura had tried to conceal his transactions by using false identities. While a minister, Inamura surprised many of his colleagues in the Liberal Democratic party and members of his ministry by inviting stock dealers to his office.

Rio urchins protest at death squads

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

TRAFFIC ground to a halt as 3,500 poor and homeless children marched down the broad Rio Branco Avenue of Rio de Janeiro in a protest against the plight of Brazil's street children.

A phalanx of wheelchairs led the march. Fluttering, hand-painted banners spoke of death and the right to life. There were acts by clowns, but the occasion was deadly serious. "A child means life, preserve him," proclaimed one banner.

Called *A Vida Pedal Passagem*—roughly translated as "life, coming through"—the two-hour march was a poignant appeal for the authorities to halt the murder of minors by shadowy death squads.

The centre of Rio de Janeiro is a traditional protest venue by everyone from striking steelworkers to Labour party militants, but this was the first time that children had taken centre stage.

According to leaders of the Roman Catholic church and human rights organisations, more than 5,000 poor children have been murdered in the past three years in Brazil. In metropolitan Rio de Janeiro alone, there have been 350 murders of street children in the same period.

The children are victims of extermination squads, made up of off-duty police and freelance security guards, hired by city merchants who fear break-ins and vandalism.

Many others are casualties in the escalating war between drug traffickers, who have lodged firmly in the many lawless *favelas*, or shanty towns, that crown Rio de Janeiro's hillsides and border the opulent South Zone resi-

dential neighbourhoods.

Although no one has an accurate count, child advocacy groups estimate that up to seven or eight million children live on the streets of Brazil. However, Akemi Guerra, the minister of health and children's affairs, has contested these numbers, saying that there are no more than two million.

But officials agree that tens of thousands of poor Brazilian children are condemned to a life of danger and abuse in the streets of the country's big cities.

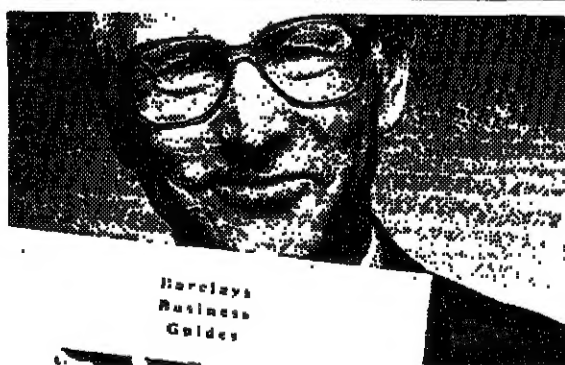
Many of these children have homes, but they are often ordered out to the streets for days at a time to sell sweets, pencils, or to beg in order to supplement family income. Most of these children are black, and come from poverty-stricken, broken homes.

They sleep on park benches, on verandahs, or in abandoned buildings, often with no more than newspapers for blankets. They quickly fall into a life of thieving, prostitution, glue-sniffing and hard drugs. Many merchants have hired off-duty police to "dispose" of them.

The murders are chillingly familiar and daily fill the crime pages of big city newspapers. Usually a child's body is found with several knife wounds or bullet holes. Torture is followed by a final, fatal wound to the head.

The Brazilian league for the defence of human rights has issued a "universal declaration of the rights of children", calling on the authorities to ensure that Brazilian youngsters have access to proper health care, education and protection.

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Ferry from Haiti terror

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON IN MONTRIOUX, HAITI

ROGER Valliere, aged 29, has been on the run since Haitian soldiers came looking for him in the slums of Port-au-Prince a month ago. He worked there as a political organiser for President Aristide until the coup at the end of September.

Several days ago Mr Valliere's neighbours brought news to his hideout in a village not far from here. The two small children he left behind in their care, Vanel, aged three, and Marie Esther, two, had been killed when soldiers came looking for him again. This time shooting wildly at his house.

They told my neighbours to tell me that if I ever show my face there again they will kill me, too," he said. "Things have become too hot to stay here. It's time to get out."

Mr Valliere had come to the little west coast fishing village of Montrioux to look for a boat to freedom in the United States, one of a growing number of refugees who have been overwhelmed by the efforts of the US Coast Guard to turn back the desperate human tide. He found a skipper willing to take him as far as the off-shore island of Gonave from where, he was

told, boats were setting off almost daily for Miami.

Venus Semilus, the skipper who took him, usually carries cargo to Port-au-Prince. These days, however, he said, there was more money to be made ferrying refugees to Gonave for \$25 (£14) each. Since the coup, business had doubled to 100 passengers a trip.

Joseph Oreste, aged 42, a pro-Aristide organiser

from the southern town of Petit Goave, was also trying to escape. "They arrested many members of my family," he said. "If they arrest me I am dead, so if I can find a boat I will take it."

Washington says cases of political persecution such as these are in a small minority among the 4,500 boat people intercepted at sea since the coup. American officials say the overwhelming majority of the

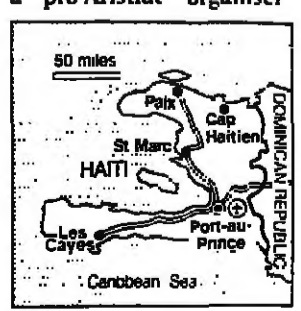
refugees are fleeing for economic reasons and only a handful qualify for political asylum.

Pierre Smith, aged 33, readily admits that his reasons for leaving Haiti are basically economic. He simply wants a better life. He had come to Montrioux to try for a second time to reach Miami. His last attempt two years ago, when he set off in a wooden sailboat with 188 others, ended after 11 days when they were picked up by the US Coast Guard cutter Hamilton, which returned them to Haiti.

Salomon Wazenel left in a small boat with nine other people in November 1987 after the Tontons Macoute wrecked Haiti's first democratic election by shooting down voters at the polls.

Pulling out his voting card for last year's election, Mr Wazenel said: "Just having one of these on you can prove you voted for Aristide, and that means you have a problem for the rest of your life."

Port-au-Prince: The Haitian senate is to sue the United States, Canada and other countries for damages Haiti has suffered because of an international embargo. (Reuters)



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Gas powered transport, as Tony found, is just a small part of our multi-million pound investment in developing new, cleaner and more efficient ways to use (and conserve) gas.

From a van to a pig. Not the grunting variety, but an intelligent one.

"What on earth is an intelligent pig?" asked Tony. So we told him. It's a robot sensor that travels through gas pipes looking for faults.

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that can store data that's the equivalent to 1,000 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica in a single journey.

In fact our pig is so sophisticated, it can find a flaw within 6 feet in 10,000 miles of pipe. As a result we don't have to dig up half the country to check a pipe.

And intelligent pigs developed by British Gas are so clever that they're now used round the world.

Tony's reaction?

"Frankly, I'm amazed at the technology."

But the future's about people as well as technology - as shown when Anneka took Tony and Dean to the Bobby Charlton Football School.

Every year, British Gas funds football and sports coaching for nearly 5,000 deserving kids (and we help education, the arts and a whole host of charities and community projects).

At the end of it all, Tony was convinced that British Gas is doing a lot for ALL our futures.

Thanks, Tony - didn't YOU just love being in control?

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Clifford Longley

Eastern Europe will be a battlefield for churches

The Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Aleksii II, is boycotting the current synod of European bishops called by the Pope, as a protest at alleged Roman Catholic expansionism in the former Soviet Union. He is particularly upset at the Pope for recently appointing the first Catholic Archbishop of Moscow. In the Ukraine, the two churches — which have never much liked each other — are at loggerheads over the ownership of church buildings relinquished by the state.

As the battlefields of Croatia painfully record, Catholic-Orthodox strains in Eastern Europe go beyond hurt dignity and problems over property. The synod, which was called by the Pope to discuss the state of Europe after the collapse of communism, will find that the demise of the church's main ideological enemy over the last 70 years is not yet a signal for celebration.

Catholicism emerged from the darkness of the communist era with much cleaner hands than most parts of the Orthodox Church, which were compromised by their subservient relationship to those former regimes. So Catholicism, which generally endured much more severe persecution under communism than did Orthodoxy, is now more attractive than Orthodoxy. Nevertheless, the Pope eschews inter-church competition, and on Thursday warmly welcomed to Rome such Orthodox and Anglican observers as had turned up for his synod.

How is the church to prevent itself squandering its victory over Marxist-Leninism? Should it — and can it — try to resist the slide of mainly Catholic East European states into Western materialism, consumerism and secularism? More than half the delegates are from Western Europe. They are likely to tell Eastern brothers that the West's version of Catholicism (and of a civilised society) is not so bad. Faced with decisions about how far Catholicism could be liberalised before it began to fall apart, most of them have pushed it quite a long way. The Pope and many senior cardinals would say it has gone too far, and have tried to pull it back. Such conservatives stress indicators of moral and religious laxness such as abortion and divorce, whereas more liberal, Western churchmen would also stress democracy, the welfare state, human rights and peace.

While Western European Catholicism has spent the last two generations distancing itself from its pre-war right-wing politics, and trying to engage in a fruitful dialogue with modern culture, East European Catholicism's experience has been radically different. When not actually dodging bullets and trying to stay out of prison, the emphasis for priests was on survival. This bred a tough faith, intolerant of what they see as Western dilatoriness. In some countries, Catholics were forced to keep their heads down for so long that they have scarcely caught up with the major reforms in Catholic thinking and practice arising from the Second Vatican Council of 1962-5. The danger is that they will not have assimilated Vatican II's condemnation of anti-Semitism, or will not sufficiently appreciate the rights of other religious minorities. Despite the Vatican's encouragement of friendship associations with Jews, some Croatian Catholic attitudes to the rights of Orthodox Christian Serbs in Croatia seem distinctly pre-conciliar, and have certainly exacerbated the present conflict. A Catholic apology in good time to Serbs for massacres during the war might have prevented some of the current ill-feeling.

Catholic church leaders from Eastern Europe do not lack power and prestige in their newly liberated countries. Indeed the temptation before them is to revert to the *ancien régime*, with an authoritarian altar-throne axis in democratic guise. What they need to know is how to survive in a Westernised, secular culture, and how to adapt their local policies accordingly. Christianity in Western Europe can hold up both its successes and its failures as object lessons to the east. One success, at least, is the radically improved state of its relations with other, non-Catholic, churches. The lesson is that not every advantage should be pressed to the limit. Charity comes first. Eastern European Catholicism has yet to learn to woo the Orthodox churches into real friendship, and set aside the rivalry of a thousand years.

The Times Book of Clifford Longley is published by HarperCollins at £15.99.

This week's discovery of a boy living in isolation fascinates us all, writes Mary Medicott

Enigma of the wild child

The 11-year-old boy found living with his mother in an animal-filled Surrey house this week had very rarely been out. So far as proper relationships are concerned, he was a complete stranger to society. With his long blonde hair it was inevitable he would remind people of jungle boys. Tarzan and Mowgli in the fictional world and the long trail of real-life feral cases, children said to have been reared by animals or simply to have grown up in the wild on their own.

Wolf-children and wild children have fascinated philosophers and scientists for hundreds of years, their stories acting as moral tales, either warning about the potential degeneracy of mankind without the blessings of civilisation, or suggesting what modern man has lost by becoming so separated from the earth. In this, the cases are linked with myths and legends from all over the world in which heroes are fed or reared by wolves, tigers, bears, and deer.

From the time of Linnaeus and Rousseau, a clutch of cases

has played a recurring part in attempts to understand the history of the species. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, they came up again in regard to child development, the comparative importance of nature and nurture and the significance of early experience.

The subject took a new turn with the discovery of Caspar Hauser in 1828. This strange young man was thought to have been imprisoned since early childhood. His behaviour and speech were very bizarre, but thoughts about him soon became bathed in Romantic ideas about the purity of childhood. People such as the anthropologist Rudolf Steiner saw him as a mystic symbol of how the world could ward off evil.

The imprisonment Hauser was thought to have suffered necessarily involved the complexity and awareness of other people, and as such it appears

more horrific than isolation in the wild. What has dumbfounded officials about the Surrey boy is that his isolation happened in an end-of-terrace house. The child's birth had been registered. There were neighbours. He had even crawled through the hedge sometimes to the next door garden, and the woman there had tried to befriend him.

As in Harper Lee's haunting book *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the neglected presence of an isolated human being is a challenge to all around. Always there is a balance to strike between common compassion and the wish not to interfere. When one delves into wild-children cases, it seems clear that some, like the wild boy of Aveyron, were not completely unknown, but had been hanging around the fringes of civilisation. With Caspar Hauser, however, a new and chilling link was made between feral children and the innumerable cases

of children abandoned within society.

This is the realm in which the NSPCC works. Here Romanian orphans and Mexican street children are merely new themes to add to an age-old tale of ill-treatment. That tale is itself closely linked to the Romulus and Remus motif. In a terrible indictment of human beings, animals in myth step in to fill the abandoned role.

As well as physical neglect — long unkempt hair, uncut nails, inability to stand upright — a common characteristic of these children is the 1940s American girl called Isabelle, found at the age of six after being shut away in a darkened room with her deaf-mute mother, not only subsequently learnt to speak but caught up to a normal educational level. However, another American girl, called Anna, discovered at the

same age around the same time, made much poorer progress.

Even where subsequent educational and social development is good, the experience of extreme isolation can leave terrible psychological scars. Czechoslovakian twin boys who had suffered extreme neglect within their family made excellent progress after being found in 1967, including successful relationships in a new foster family. However, they hated any reminder of their early deprivation, and this remained a problem for them.

In the case of the Surrey child, the prospects look good. The boy evidently has a close bond with his mother. He is reported to have higher than average verbal ability for his age and also to be able to read and write. His mother has obviously looked after him in many important ways. Nevertheless, isolation also

wreaks another kind of damage. A macabre aspect of such cases is that they have always drawn the crowds. Sometimes this has brought compensations. Visitors attracted by a wild boy brought to London in the early 18th century included Defoe, Swift and Arbuthnot, all of whom wrote with verve about him. But there has traditionally been great cruelty in the way such children have been treated.

The 74 animals in the Surrey house were taken in charge by the RSPCA. Some were in such poor condition they had to be put down. What will happen to the boy and his mother? Society generally expresses itself assumed that something so outlandish could happen. As if a black hole had emerged in space, pulling people stunned towards it, the incident reveals both how strong and how fragile our social systems are. Isolation is fascinating to human beings. But with luck this boy's transition to a wider society will be allowed to take place gently.

The author is writing a book on wild children.

The soul of a lady of letters

The BBC's *Clarissa* is a tribute to the great power of Richardson's epistolary novel, says Jane Gardam

I was lucky to be published. I had written an epistolary novel, and although everyone leaps to pick up the rare letter with the address handwritten in ink among the heaps of junk on the doormat, I was told "nobody wants to read a book of letters now". An American publisher told me that he had tried an epistolary novel a year ago and it was a disaster. Letters in England seem to be written now only after a death (when, I may say, they bring surprising comfort, relics of an old civilised discipline).

But who sits down now to private correspondence? Only the old, the mad, the rich under-employed and the literate. I had to make my heroine all of these. Few others know the rules. Two generations ago, most people did. A great-aunt of mine criticised a friend's (very entertaining) letters because "she writes as she talks". Another old woman I knew picked up a letter by a corner and said: "Just look at this: every paragraph beginning with 'I'. What manners."

The telephone and the slowness of the post have almost wiped out the love-letter. But in 1749 Samuel Richardson's epistolary novel *Clarissa* cornered the market. It swept across England and the continent, and young women everywhere gobbled it up. They wrote letters to each other about it — letters about letters — for letters were what they knew about.

They were the safety-valve for women cooped up in country houses waiting to be married off, long slow days enormously relieved by the friendship of other women on paper, and nice exercises in composition. A snowstorm of imitations of *Clarissa* followed, but then at last died away, or rather turned into the 19th-century novel of protracted debate *Jane Eyre* is one: much of it reads like letters. These intense analytical studies of heroines are quite different from those before Richardson, such as *Moll Flanders* of a century before. *Moll's* letters were brief, economical with the truth and usually bad news. A letter from Moll and you got on your horse.

It is the wonderful candour of *Clarissa Harlowe's* letters that makes them live so long after their time. They still refresh the heart, and sometimes even shock as they did then.

The most brilliant letter-writer of the day, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, would never have turned her letters into anything as common as a novel, though she loved novels and distributed her brilliant Embassy Letters in a very cleaned-up private edition among friends. *Clarissa's* candour, she said, is almost indecent. It made the book, she said, "a joy to chambermaids of all nations". *Clarissa* is "so faulty in her behaviour as to deserve little compassion. It will do more general mischief than Lord Rochester."

Lady Mary, patrician to her dirty unheeded fingerlings, detested Richardson and said he knew nothing of the class he described. He had to ask advice about upper-class manners from a friend of hers, and sulked off home when she told him his mistakes. (Was there a mistake in the television production by the way? Did servants knock on downstairs doors in 1749?) No girl of *Clarissa's* class, said Lady Mary, would have treated her mother like that or committed

the ultimate obscenity of going off with Lovelace and then refusing to sleep with him. Lady Mary, as her editor once told me, was "a hard-mouthed bitch", but she was often hilarious.

Clarissa was not hilarious. Her flight, a mighty act of defiance, leads to an assault on Lovelace, her would-be seducer, which fills volumes with an intense, merciless enquiry into the nature of love, marriage and virginity that leaves Germaine

Greer seeming inarticulate. Her words poured over him like tidal waves, strong and relentless enough to topple the devil, which of course in many ways is what Lovelace is supposed to be.

And like the devil, he is a good correspondent (C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape* too was most entertaining: he enjoyed the onslaught and struck back). What is interesting about Lovelace, and so different from heroes of contemporary fiction, is his passionate interest in morality, even

while his whole pleasure in life is to disregard it. And he is frighteningly attractive, as of course the devil should be. One would have expected Richardson to have guessed this, and not to have been so appalled when he discovered that all the silly girl readers in England had fallen in love with him. He was as shocked as Defoe had been a century earlier when he found that his public had all taken a shine to dreadful *Moll*. You can't be too careful with villains. *Macbeth* and *Shylock* always take over the plays.

The television adaptation is dispensing with the structure of a book written entirely in letters, as it has to. Yet we see *Clarissa* stretching for her pen in every crisis like a drug-addict reaching for a fix, and it is considered in the family her rather comical obsession. But there is no endless scratching of quills. The dramatic — melodramatic — events take over.

But oh how refreshing was *Clarissa* on television this week! Such a relief from Victorian bonnets and muffs and platform shoes and busts and hair brushes, or the greenery-yallery drooping ferns of *Bleakwater*; or the rompy-pumpy scenes of present-day bedroom dramas. Here was the excitement of what *Clarissa's* mother called "soberly smoking them, 'the very finest silk', the men as well as women with painted faces, the mountainous dory wigs, the sweeping curtains, the enormous formality and ceremony, punctuated with spots of savage duelling and physical violence. Madmen screaming, lords a-leaping, and new, beautiful houses with sparkling windows and wonderful rooms and furniture, and wide clear landscapes and skies.

Yet it is all serious stuff, not fancy dress. What women in particular have always liked about *Clarissa Harlowe* is her consistent bravery. She may be somewhat heavy weather now and then, but she makes her reckless flight from her gilded cage into the keeping of a man set to ruin her, and she refuses to be ruined. "I owe a duty to myself," she says — and does it.

Jane Gardam's *The Queen of the Tambourine* (Sinclair Stevenson, £13.95) won this year's Whitbread novel award.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

What so wild as words are? Edgar Allan Poe said that by ringing small changes on the words *leg of mutton* and *turnip* he could "demonstrate" that a turnip was, is, and of right ought to be, a leg of mutton. Listen with narrowed eyes to anybody who bangs on about the true or correct meaning of a word, as we all do at times.

Take the slogan "Naughty but nice", claimed to have been invented to puff cream puffs by Salman Rushdie, when he was in advertising. There you have two of the most slippery adjectives in the English language. Their continuing career is a commentary on social history down the centuries. Naughty started its life to mean having naughty, skint. That is how it is used in the greatest poem of Middle English, Langland's *Piers Plowman*: "All manner of men / That needy be and naughty, help them with thy goods." From there, it came to mean inferior in quality. In *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, Robert Burton was a naughty-as-worthless man: "Thou wilt not have bad coin, bad soil, a naughty tree, but all good." And here is Joseph Moxon in his matrix book on printing of 1683: "The compositor will bow the letter, and pop it into a waste box in the case, where he puts all naughty letters." This is the naughtiness at Jeremiah 24, 2, which has made generations of schoolboys snigger: "One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe; and the

other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad." As late as 1896, an Etymological dictionary could remind: "The cherries were fraudulent, sour, and naughty throughout."

In the 16th century, naughty branched out to mean morally bad as well as worthless. Portia, in *The Merchant of Venice*: "So shines a good deed in a naughty world." These adjectives of praise and blame seem to be more volatile than others. We need them all the time to remake the world in our own words, and each generation puts its own gloss and emphasis on them.

Naughty has acquired dozens of other meanings in its twisted career. It used to be applied to that English obsession, the weather. Here is the Fool in *Lea* giving the evening weather report: "Prithee, nuncle, be contented. 'Tis a naughty night to swim in." Recently naughty has been trivialised to a nursery word applied to children. And hence its use by advertising puffsters to describe the harmless activity of biting into an éclair. Don't count on naughty staying in the nursery and on the billboard. No word stands still.

On the sunny side of the lexicon, nice had quite as meandering a career. It came into English from Old French in the 13th century, meaning silly or simple, derived from the Latin *nescius* ignorant. From that simple start, it has branched out into even more diverse meanings than naughty.

Down the centuries nice has been used by idiomatic English speakers and the best writers to mean everything from "ravaging and strange and treacherous and effeminate. It has meant slender. The *Faerie Queene*: "As Ladies went, in pleasures wanton lap / To finger the fine needle and nice thread." It sprouted a great cluster of meanings around the notions of precision and fastidiousness. With the nice male bias of language, for a considerable period of nice's life, to describe a gentleman as nice meant that he was bad-tempered, a formidable old thing. But to call a woman nice meant, as so often in English, that she was no better than she should be. There is a lot of wishful thinking in the male chauvinism of language.

This is the sense intended by *Moth*, Armado's cheeky page, in *Love's Labour's Lost*: "These are compliments, these are humours, these betray nice wenchings." In its time, nice has meant trivial, or dangerous, or coy. It will answer to "Hit" or to any loud cry, such as "Fry me" or "Fritter-my-wie!" Its latest role is as the all-purpose epithet of woolly approval. If "nice" is the only adjective you can think of for something, you might as well not bother.

But I suspect nice is on the turn again. I think "nice" is increasingly used between inverted commas, with a hint of sarcasm. Words are always on the turn, far more slippery than cream buns.

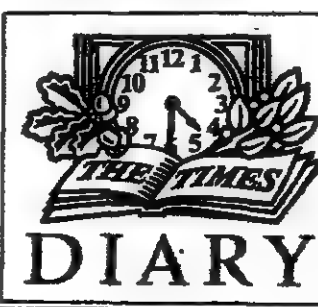
Blessed are the novelists

JEFFREY ARCHER is to be asked to act as peacemaker between John Major and Mrs Thatcher in an attempt to prevent any more public rows in the run-up to Maastricht. Relations between Mrs Thatcher and the government have reached such a low ebb that there is no good candidate left in the cabinet who could act as an intermediary. Hence the appeal to Archer, who is one of the handful of Tories who remain close to both.

Mrs Thatcher's closest friend in the government, John Wakeham, made clear his irritation with his former leader in a speech in Japan earlier this week, when he claimed Major's cabinet is more united than any of hers ever was. Mrs Thatcher has privately conceded that she regrets using the word "arrogant" in her ITN interview to describe Major's opposition to a referendum, but she is said to stand by the rest of her comments.

The idea of using Archer as a go-between came from Major himself, and it is inconceivable that the novelist will reject the invitation to try to unify the party. One ministerial source says: "Jeffrey is the man to do it. We hope Mrs Thatcher will grasp this opportunity to build bridges."

The only social function that has brought Mrs Thatcher and Major together in the past six months was Archer's silver wedding anniversary party. Mrs Thatcher celebrates her 40th anniversary early next month, and although Archer is on the party guest-list it is unlikely that the prime minister will join them for the occasion. Ministers hope, however, that with Archer's help, the two will at least exchange cards at Christmas.



● The Post Office has produced a checklist of the best answers given to detector teams seeking our TV licence dodgers. A favourite comes from a Birmingham man whose rooftop aerial was apparent for miles around. "I've got five pints of milk on the doorstep," he told investigators. "But that doesn't mean there's a cow in the kitchen."

Party savings

YESTERDAY was Yugoslavian National Day, and for the first time since the second world war, the occasion found the Yugoslavian Embassy in Kensington quiet. Instead of the usual festivities, staff spent the day in mourning.

Last week the embassy proposed a toned-down celebration, a modest luncheon affair of drinks and canapés, with drastic pruning of the usual 300-strong guest-list of diplomats and politicians. But with the worsening situation, even that was cancelled.

Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who has attended most of the parties over the past 45 years, and who returned from his latest trip to Yugoslavia yesterday, says: "Their attentions are elsewhere. I am not surprised that people are not in a party mood. It is hardly the time." The deputy ambassador, Fergus

Starcevic, says he and his colleagues collected £1,500 — cash that would have been spent on the party — to send to the Yugoslavian Red Cross.

Amused, by order

THE QUEEN is going to the opera — a rare event in the royal household. Her Majesty's visit next February to Covent Garden's *Don Giovanni*, as part of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of her accession, will be her first visit to the Royal Opera since her 60th birthday celebrations more than five years ago.

Ballet is understood to be more to the royal taste. The tale — prob-



ably apocryphal — is told at Covent Garden of Prince Philip, whenever an opera visit cannot be avoided, taking a book to read in the seclusion of the royal box. The Palace says: "The Queen enjoys opera — when she goes."

Watch and pray

WHAT were the first words uttered by Terry Waite when his captors told him he was to be freed? Praise the Lord? Thanks be to

God? Not at all. According to Lambeth Palace sources, Waite had other things on his mind. When told of his imminent liberty: Recognising the messenger as one of his original kidnappers, he complained: "When you captured me, you took my watch and crushed it. The very least you could do is go and buy a new one." Before Waite was finally set free, the man duly reappeared and presented him with a watch, which Waite was wearing when he landed at RAF Lyneham. Waite later told the tale to Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, adding, "but it was not as good as the one I lost."

● The Dulwich Players have had to announce the postponement of their production of *Molière's The Hypochondriac* until January "as a result of illness". Real or imagined they do not say.

Not again

ALL those who are heartily sick of Maastricht even before the summit has begun will be dismayed to learn that the Dutch government has already "lightly pencilled in" two possible sets of dates for a second summit — one just before Christmas and the other between Christmas and the New Year.

According to sources at the European Commission, the further summit would only take place if agreement were not reached at the first, and it is felt that a second meeting could tie up the loose ends. Fortunately the Dutch contingency plan is unlikely to be used. After all, no EC leader wants to risk the odium of failing to agree at two summits in the same month. But, probably much more important, it will be a very unpopular leader who forces fellow heads of state to interrupt their Christmas holidays.



THE MAGIC FLUTE

How has he done? A year ago this week Britain acquired a new prime minister. John Major emerged surprised and blinking into the light from the smoking-rooms of Westminster, the candidate of the club that had achieved the highest office without popular election or even the test of a serious political crisis. Like Tamino, he had taken the magic flute from the Queen of the Night, but had not yet been put to test by fire and water.

He has now. A political leader can only be judged by comparison, in Mr Major's case with Margaret Thatcher had she stayed in office, or with his rivals for the job. What, amid the storm of circumstance, has been the value he has added to his country's government and his party's fortunes? Did the assassins who stalked into Mrs Thatcher's room a year ago get what they wanted?

The answer must be yes. They wanted a change, a calmer, more collective style of leadership, a less belligerent approach to the rest of Europe, a more user-friendly custodianship of the welfare state. They wanted one of their own, not an outsider like Michael Heseltine. They wanted an image of commonwealth, not the aristocratic Douglas Hurd. In their heart of hearts, they also wanted a bit of a rest.

A prime minister must offer the country at least two out of the familiar trinity: competence, vision and charisma. Mr Major has passed the test of competence both at home and abroad. From the Gulf war through the health service argument and now the Maas-tricht split, he has conducted cabinet and party government in textbook fashion. He is a collaborator in the ministerial endeavour, not an antagonist. Over Downing Street rises the sound of a government pulling together, not apart. There are fewer leaks and fewer gaffes. Mrs Thatcher's tank is in the garage and the old Whitehall Rolls is back in use.

Vision has so far come harder to Mr Major. Quite why is not clear. He seems to find the "vision thing" trivial, almost cynical, in the political repertoire. In this he is wrong.

MINISTERIAL CONTEMPT

If a government or minister breaks a legal obligation, who is to enforce the law? Some constitutional purists would say it is only for Parliament, if necessary by turning government or minister out of office. The public would feel safer if the courts also took a hand. Ministers would doubtless like to escape either form of control. They should face both.

Yesterday the Court of Appeal agreed with this belt-and-braces approach to the supervision of the executive, by two votes to one. In so doing it disagreed with Mr Justice Simon Brown, who in July had refused to find the home secretary, Kenneth Baker, guilty of contempt. The judge had ruled that the righting of ministerial wrongs lay solely with Parliament, as ministers of the Crown were immune from contempt proceedings. The score in judges therefore is two-all.

A promise had been given on the home secretary's behalf that an applicant for asylum would not be ejected from Britain while his case was being considered by the High Court. This was regarded by the court as a legally binding undertaking. In spite of the promise, the applicant was ejected from Britain before his case was over. The contempt lay in the breach of the undertaking, followed by the failure to obey a court order to get the man back from Paris once the breach was reported to the judge.

Mr Baker's culpability does not merit resignation. He had not authorised the giving of the binding undertaking to the court. He had been legally advised — by Treasury counsel John Laws and others — that his failure to have the man returned to Britain was not unlawful. The expulsion of the asylum-seeker despite the promise resulted from a breakdown in internal Home Office communications at official level. But the court did not let the Home Office off scot-free: it has to pay legal costs "to assert or emphasise the paramount authority of the law", as Lord Donaldson put it.

The much-vaunted doctrine of ministerial responsibility should be invoked only where blame is personal. If ministers resigned at every fiasco there would be no ministers. Certainly the case does nothing to Mr Baker's reputation for running a tight ship, less for that benighted department itself and less still for the comatose principle of parliamentary oversight of the executive. The condition for Mr Baker retaining the confidence of the House of Commons is that he should demonstrably put the Home Office in better shape. Where procedures are at fault they should be changed; where individual civil servants were at fault they should be corrected. To be the first minister to be found guilty of contempt of court is no minor matter. For a home secretary, responsible for law and order, it is doubly shameful.

Civil servants, now demanding performance-related pay and comparability with the private sector, should more often be disciplined or sacked both as a punishment and a deterrent. Starting with the permanent under secretary, Sir Clive Whitmore, where down the chain of Home Office command did responsibility lie? Mr Baker should say what action he is taking. Mr Baker's decision to appeal to the Law Lords against the appeal court's decision implies that the home secretary believes the courts should not have the power to call ministers to account. He believes, in other words, that the disciplining of a minister who has broken the law is exclusively a matter for his fellow politicians in Parliament. That is a bad joke. The Law Lords should tell him that the protection of individual liberty demands a more reliable sanction.

WHERE ANGELS TREAD

Does where you stand depend on where you sit, or are there universal markers, whether of liberty, culture, beauty, dynamism or tolerance, by which to recognise civilisation? Can countries be simultaneously civilised and uncivilised? The questions thrown out by Bernard Levin in his search for what makes a place civilised have so far not been answered by readers. They have risen to his challenge to name names, but their choices are linked only by tolerance.

Whiskey is one of Ireland's claims (but tell that to the Scots). French cooking with German portions is said to be one of Belgium's gifts to civilisation, along with "politically correct" politics. Neither whiskey nor groaning boards would today be prominent in Vatican City, acclaimed for its "natural harmony" of body, mind and spirit. And how would the Papal state sit with historians mindful of the Inquisition, let alone with Carlyle, who defined gunpowder, printing and the Protestant religion as his "three great elements of modern civilisation"?

As for Belgium, the recent elections showed tolerance at a low ebb and, besides, what cloud-capped towers were built on the pillars of political correctness? It might further be asked whether any civilised country could have tolerated the architectural misery that houses the European Commission, were it not that by such a criterion, all would fail. From the great glasshouses of modern civilisation, perhaps only New Yorkers might have the confidence to cast stones, and then only from Manhattan.

Pei's pyramid in the Louvre is surely no more grotesque and is certainly smaller than the monstrous Vittorio Emanuele monu-

The electorate responds to idealism, be it the scientific modernism of Lord Wilson or the anti-corruption of Mrs Thatcher. Whether or not it is being coined, the nation likes to feel it is electing an idea as well as a chief executive. The question is not what Mr Major himself believes, but what intellectual and moral framework is implied by a vote for him. Like it or not, the answer in Mrs Thatcher's case was clear. In his case it is not.

Mrs Thatcher's electoral appeal took definition from her public enemies, the unions, big government, Labour councils, the Soviet Union, Brussels federalists. In his search for contrast, Mr Major has made friends. He likes the health service, the teachers, his European partners, Russians and Americans are welcome at his table. The great institutions of the central state, benevolently marshalled by Sir Robin Butler and the Treasury, have no fear of him. His October conference speech as leader was bloodless. He learned his politics in the statist school of Thatcherism. Yet he seems eager to put all that behind him. His one great argument is with his own right wing, but deft whipping can cope with that.

This ideological fog is deliberate. Mr Major's advisers are rightly chary of making their man into something that he is not. The strategy is to emphasise the politics of competence and niceness, hoping that the charisma of niceness follows. But Mr Major's opponent next year, Neil Kinnock, will be playing the niceness card too.

Niceness should not be underrated as a leadership attribute. Ronald Reagan traded it at a premium. A quick, confident smile is worth a thousand votes. If Mr Major could find a less clichéd delivery, find a touch of Mrs Thatcher's instinctive street language, recover the humanity of his Gulf war style, he could yet convert ordinariness into star appeal. To be unexciting but good at one's job is better by far than the converse. Mr Major has fully vindicated his choice as party leader to his colleagues and has governed well. The flute is still playing, but the final test has not yet come, and the Queen of the Night is in the wings and singing.

free: it has to pay legal costs "to assert or emphasise the paramount authority of the law", as Lord Donaldson put it.

The much-vaunted doctrine of ministerial responsibility should be invoked only where blame is personal. If ministers resigned at every fiasco there would be no ministers. Certainly the case does nothing to Mr Baker's reputation for running a tight ship, less for that benighted department itself and less still for the comatose principle of parliamentary oversight of the executive.

The condition for Mr Baker retaining the confidence of the House of Commons is that he should demonstrably put the Home Office in better shape. Where procedures are at fault they should be changed; where individual civil servants were at fault they should be corrected. To be the first minister to be found guilty of contempt of court is no minor matter. For a home secretary, responsible for law and order, it is doubly shameful.

Civil servants, now demanding performance-related pay and comparability with the private sector, should more often be disciplined or sacked both as a punishment and a deterrent. Starting with the permanent under secretary, Sir Clive Whitmore, where down the chain of Home Office command did responsibility lie? Mr Baker should say what action he is taking. Mr Baker's decision to appeal to the Law Lords against the appeal court's decision implies that the home secretary believes the courts should not have the power to call ministers to account. He believes, in other words, that the disciplining of a minister who has broken the law is exclusively a matter for his fellow politicians in Parliament. That is a bad joke. The Law Lords should tell him that the protection of individual liberty demands a more reliable sanction.

ment in the heart of Rome, capital of the country to which Levin gives the palm. But then, how civilised of the Italians to have learned to treat that monument as a just, a marble tribute to national unity in the midst of the enduringly loyal *campalino* which binds Italians to the places of their birth and inures them to the follies of politics? (Might not the hallmark of a civilised country be one whose citizens have, like the Italians, learned to prosper without paying the remotest attention to their government?)

There is another enigma lurking in the Levin riddle: could a country meet all criteria without stepping up a category, from the merely civilised to the Utopian? No civilisation is imaginable shorn of man's dream of the perfectible. Yet Popper reminds us to beware of Utopias, of "the desire to build a world which is not only a little better and more rational than ours, but which is free from all its ugliness: not... an old garment, badly patched, but an entirely new coat, a really beautiful new world." The worthy Webbs gazed in wonder on Stalin's world and pronounced it A New Civilisation. Half a century on, the children of that "civilisation" won the freedom to deliver their verdict.

By definition, civilisation does not shed, but deals in, earthly imperfections: the presence of the tree of good and evil is a landmark setting the greatest of them apart from the City of God. Yet "magic ingredients" do sometimes go into this dealing. Toynebe once said that civilisation was a movement not a condition, a voyage not a harbour. Yet Italy has, as Levin said, made great discoveries in its long voyage. Enough of Erehwon. Civilisation has local habitations and names. The gauntlet is not yet out of the ring.

Enhancing women's status in the workplace and public life

From Dr Kenneth M. Wolfe

Sir, Ray Clancy ("Top women agonise over Auntie's all-male image", November 20) rightly thinks the statistic that all but one of the 44 Reith lectures have been delivered by men raises complex issues. However, she quite mistakenly lays all this at Reith's door: "Reith regarded his appointment... as an act of God... and the BBC as an agency of divine intervention... perhaps it is that Reithian legacy that has kept women out..."

Reith was committed to excellence and it is quite misleading to blame him for "keeping women out in the cold". Reith was most interested in talented women and gave them powerful executive positions. Long before the lecture series bearing his name was ever thought of, it was Reith whose wise choice of Mary Somerville to head the Talks department laid the foundations for the BBC's role in enfranchising vast tracts of the population through its talks policy.

This was taken up later in television and current affairs under Grace Wyndham Goldie. If anything, it was Reith who laid the foundations for the BBC's flair for discovering women executives at the right time.

Ms Clancy expresses what is commonly but erroneously thought: that Reith's Presbyterianism shaped his commitment to public service and his peculiar attitude to women. It is simply not true. He was a remarkably astute judge of ability, whilst at the same time reflecting the established attitudes of the Twenties through which his religious convictions were refracted.

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely, KENNETH WOLFE (Director), Centre for the Study of Religion and Society, Rutherford College, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, November 25.

From Ms Lesley Abdele

Sir, Is the BBC trying to blame women for the fact that there has only been one female Reith lecturer in 44 years? Your feature by Ray Clancy makes it clear how untrue it is to claim no woman in 30 years was/is qualified to deliver the series. Half a dozen phone calls are all that's needed — if the producers cared to look.

And what sheer effrontery for a corporation funded by the public to say it "does not disclose the criteria" it uses in selecting lecturers.

Why doesn't the BBC simply "come clean", to use a parliamentary term, and admit it has run a thorough-going misogynist show for

half a century, practised gender apartheid at almost every rank above tea-maker and carpet-cleaner, and that its behaviour and myopia on what women have long since achieved are a terrible disgrace to broadcasting itself? And then, yes, decades later, it does something about it.

Yours faithfully, LESLEY ABDELE, The Lodge, Conock Manor, Chilton, Wiltshire, November 21.

From Ms Helen Beaney

Sir, How can one's sex be a criterion for giving the Reith lectures? Even with the wealth of interesting and intelligent women who might be considered as candidates, there must be an overwhelming number of men still better qualified. Feminism has its place, but this insidious, pervasive feeling that there must be a token woman is as ludicrous, insulting and patronising as a similarly pointless need for a token black.

Yours faithfully, HELEN BEANEY, Le Chazal, Argentan, Corrèze, France, November 26.

From Mr Peter Sewell

Sir, Janet Daley's article, "Women's lost cause" (November 26), reinforces my view that the advocates of feminism fall into two categories: those who want to advance the cause of women, who do a good job, and those who just want to be rude about men, who rather hamper the good work done by the others.

I could not help smiling at Ms Daley's romantic picture of the woman manager. All managers, male or female, have their own personalities and ways of approaching their job, some good, some bad.

Anybody who has worked in an organisation with women in senior positions will find difficulty in recognising Ms Daley's saccharine stereotype. If I were as prejudiced as Ms Daley, I would say that many of them were as tough as old boots, with the sense of humour of an under-ripe lemon. But that would be an unfair generalisation.

Yours faithfully, P. R. SEWELL, 1 Victoria Terrace, Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool 15, November 27.

From Mrs M. C. Tucker

Sir, If I were an employer required to invest and to take risks (for there are particular risks associated with employing women with young children) in order to support the right of women to work, am I not then entitled to expect that the women I

employ are as committed as the men I employ?

Is it in fact reasonable to expect husbands to take risks with their own careers and earning potential in order to support their wives' careers, so long as women regard financially supporting themselves and their families as an option but not a duty? Are the stereotypical characteristics exhibited by men in a high-pressure working environment ones that a society needs if it is to generate wealth; and, if so, is the argument that such working environments should be more "family-friendly" a threat to the material progress of society?

My own experience as a female employee and manager of other women (and men) would lead me to give mixed answers to those questions. But I do think it is time that we paid less attention to the whingeing sisterhood, acknowledged the real problems that exist, and considered as dispassionately as possible the pros and cons of changes in society which would alter the opportunities and the obligations of both sexes.

Yours faithfully, M. C. TUCKER, 7 Cedar Terrace, Thackham's Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, November 26.

From Mr Christopher Sandford

Sir, So far from there being "minuscule numbers of women at the higher levels of management", public relations, with its emphasis on what Ms Daley calls "interest in other people", implies the other extreme.

My own firm enjoys an 80 per cent female workforce, with the same proportion at board level. It is not untypical.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER SANDFORD, 24 Blenheim Road, W4, November 26.

From Miss Rosemary Burton

Sir, Bernard Levin (November 25) is right. The "politically correct" Americans at Penn State University who condemned Goya's *Naked Maja* as an example of sexual harassment are humourous and absurd.

Sadly their absurdity is matched by his attempt to write a laugh from the suggestion that the protests were motivated by jealousy. "Find out the identity of the woman professor who started this lunatic business, and tell me if I was right when I deduced that Goya would have taken one look at her and burnt his brushes", says Levin. One fears for his comprehension of both women and art.

Yours faithfully, ROSEMARY BURTON, The Parrot House, Weedon, Northamptonshire.

Farmers and landscape

From the Chairman of the National Trust

Sir, One of the most serious problems facing the National Trust is the decline in agricultural prosperity, especially in the uplands and other areas of high landscape value.

Last week's announcement (report, November 21) by Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, of a substantial increase in the number and size of environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) and an increase in spending from £13 million to £65 million is therefore timely. It will be warmly welcomed by farmers and environmental organisations alike.

Even in the hills our landscapes are largely manmade, through sheep which are natural lawnmowers. These landscapes have been centuries in the making: it would be a disaster if they ceased to be farmed. It is, therefore, all the more encouraging to read Mr Gummer's reported remarks that

the farmer is the key figure in the conservation of Britain. If we want him to preserve Britain, and be the steward of the countryside, then he must have an income to do it.

Yours truly, ROGER CHORLEY, Chairman, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

Westward ho?

From Mr Bill Cormie

Sir, Without the benefit of eyes in the back of his head, Mr Kenney-Herbert (letter, November 27) can be excused for not observing that the District Line map on the other side of his carriage was presented in the more conventional west-east direction.

The effect is, of course, that the direction in which the train is travelling matches its progress along either map towards its ultimate destination (unless of course the carriages are somehow mistakenly reversed, in which case who knows what could happen).

Such a presentation is obvious to regular users. It may be helpful to some strangers and overseas visitors, though I doubt it. Consistency throughout all Underground maps surely has to be the overriding consideration and I fully support Mr Kenney-Herbert's appeal for a return to the conventional form.

Yours faithfully, W. D. CORMIE, Dix's Black Hill, Lindfield, West Sussex.

From Mrs Sonia Gable

Sir, The logic of the alignment of the maps in District Line trains is the same logic that any good navigator uses in, for example, orienteering or

Lessons from a shadow jury

From Mr Ray Fitzwalter and Ms Claudia Milne

Sir, Your leading article, "Called to the Bar" (November 23), attempts to belittle the careful television experiment of "Inside the Jury", suggesting that our representation was flawed. You make the assumption that the shadow jury was treated differently from a real jury, in particular, "paid at Granada rates, with cars to fetch and carry". This was not true.

There were 26 people serving on two shadow juries. They made their own way to court. They waited for cases. They were paid only loss of earnings just like real jurors, on similar food and left the court and returned when the real jury was directed to do so. They were also looked after by a retired clerk of court, acting as jury bailiff to ensure they were treated in the same manner as other jurors.

Yours faithfully, RAY FITZWALTER (Head of Current Affairs), CLAUDIA MILNE (Executive Producer, Twenty Twenty Television), Granada Television, Key Street, Manchester, November 28.

From the Vice-Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association

Sir, Mr Whitaker's letter (November 22) speaks of "bona fide research" into the deliberations of juries.

I suggest that the interests of justice generally would not be served by adding to the already onerous responsibilities of jurors trying criminal cases the fear that they may be questioned by anyone about the reasons why they arrived at particular verdicts in actual cases.

It is in any way desirable, by way of example, that it should be revealed that a jury would have convicted an accused on the balance of probabilities but that they acquitted because they were not quite sure of guilt?

Yours faithfully, J. G. BOAL (Vice-Chairman, Criminal Bar Association), Queen Elizabeth Building, Temple, EC4, November 22.

From Mr Bryan Ewing

Sir, Behind closed doors a juror can speak without fear of retribution or consequence, sure in the knowledge that his views and assessments are protected by law.

If outside the jury room he can be challenged, questioned or perhaps even intimidated due to the loss of legal anonymity, then a free and impartial assessment of the facts could be swayed by questions of possible consequences.

If one person in good faith disagrees with his fellows, the view of the majority may well triumph for the above reasons. Leave the system alone that has served so effectively so long.

Yours sincerely, BRYAN EWING, 6a St Philip's Road, Surbiton, Surrey, November 22.

Dartford tolls

From Mr John Sankey

Sir, Mr Symington's suggestion (letter, November 22) that tolls should be abolished on the south-bound carriageway of the Dartford river crossing, with a double toll paid on the northbound carriageway, deserves support.

I encountered a similar system on the expressway between Oklahoma City and Tulsa when I was visiting the United States last year, and it worked very well.

It should be particularly effective at Dartford as there is no toll-free alternative — short of a long and tedious detour via the Woolwich ferry or the Blackwall tunnel.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SANKEY, 108 Lancaster Gate, W2, November 24.

flying a light aircraft, which is always to hold the map in the direction of travel. Rigidly to insist on north being at the top leads to the performance of mental gymnastics to determine which features on the map are to the left or right of the line of movement (or under) the ground.

Yours faithfully, SONIA GABLE, 49 Herent Drive, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex, November 27.

From Mr P. J. Harper

Sir, For maps in carriages on the District Line to give the positions of stations relative to the train itself seems to me to be entirely logical and easily understood by strangers to London. Normal geographic conventions, which in any case do not apply to a topological representation, are of little use to anyone unaware of Upminster's position as the gateway to the East.

Yours faithfully, PETER HARPER, Redwings, Black Lane, Lover, Redlynch, Salisbury, Wiltshire, November 27.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 1991

CHANNEL

0.00 Comic Book: Cartoons 9:55-10:00... Again, an exploration of outer space through the eyes of animated characters 7:25 Sporting Years to Remember... Father News sports coverage from 1935 to 1940 7:55 Train World Sport
0.00 News summary followed by Channel 4 Evening: the Morning Line

0.00 Same Difference. Magazine series on disability issues. This edition includes an item on wheelchair access in the countryside
0.00 Traveling. John Walters discovers exciting Brussels [r]
0.00 Wagon Train: The C.L. Harding Story [adv]. Clara Trevor joins the classic western series.

0.00 Tony Jackson's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. Florin Rafferty and Sam Torrance are poned by Peter Cook and Nigel Mansell [r]

0.00 American Football — Red 42. Action from the NFL's week 13

0.00 Air Pirates of the Outback. Aremation


0.15 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. Live coverage of the 1.25, 1.55, 2.30 (William Hill Handicap Hurdle) and 3.00 races

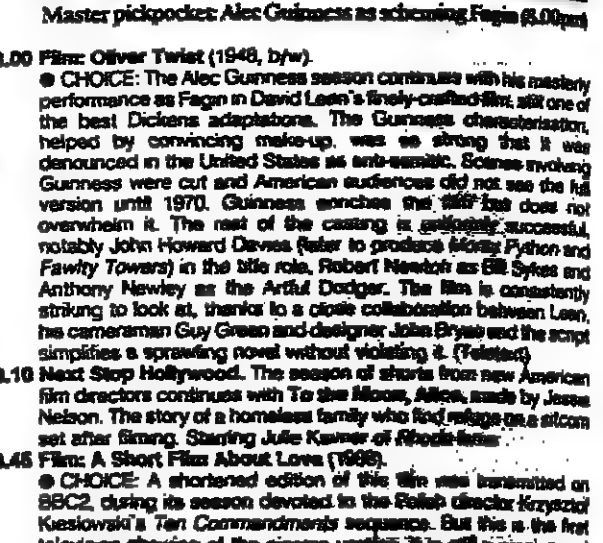
0.25 Film: A Ticket to Tombsland (1950) starring Dan Dailey Anne Baxter, Rory Calhoun and Walter Brennan. Unstinting comedy western with music about a travelling salesman who finds himself the only paying passenger on a train under threat from Indians and stage coach owners. Directed by Richard Sale

0.50 Brookside. Omnibus edition [r] (Teletext)

0.50 News summary and weather followed by Night to Reply, a television coverage of Yugoslavia's civil war based towards the Croats? (Teletext) [s]

0.00 South. Three film-makers from developing countries convey the complexities of living in a Latin America rising from its military past through a mixture of animation, film clips and fiction





...economical piece of film-making. Kurosawa's story is done in a

the edge of Wacław Echoing Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*, Kasielanko has her hero, a 19-year-old polite clerk, spying on an attractive older woman in the flat opposite. For a long time he cannot summon up the courage to confront her. When he does, events take an unfortunate turn. Kasielanko transcends the film's voyeuristic potential with tenderness, humor and a sharp eye to character. He is helped by the excellent playing of Olaf Lubaszenko in the role of the voyeur and by the superb acting of the woman, Zdzisława Szymborska. The film is a gem of a production. Among the guests are Arnold Schwarzenegger and Roman Polański.

15 American Football – Red 42 (r)

48 The World. Among the guests are comedians Bush Berhard and comic actress Barbara Windsor (r). (c). Endless 3-68.

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06:00 **News:** Louise Encks
06:00 **Weekend:** Interview with Ned Stenim
06:00 **News:** The Week in
06:00 **Weekend:** Westminster, with Peter
06:30 **Magazine:** Stephen Jessel
06:30 **Magazine:** The European news
06:30 **Magazine:** Europe
06:30 **Magazine:** Money Race: Financial
06:30 **Magazine:** Weather
06:30 **Magazine:** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue:
06:30 **Magazine:** Humphrey Lytton chairs the
06:30 **Magazine:** comedy panel game (a) 12.55
06:30 **Magazine:** What's
06:30 **Magazine:** News
06:30 **Magazine:** Any Questions? Jonathan

6.50 Stop the Week (s)
 7.20 Kaleidoscope: The Last and the Fig. Paul Allen tastes the fruit of the fig tree in art and literature (s)
 7.50 Classic Serial: Jamaica Inn. Second of a four-part dramatization of Daphne du Maurier's novel (s)
 8.30 Conversation Piece: End

4411. Ring Jonathan Demme with your views on the issues raised in <i>Any Questions?</i>	Wellness, with special programs for the general community care at Sheffield University
30. Saturday Playhouse: Black Beauty's Treasure. Michael Barrett's dramatisation of Jeffrey Farnol's successful novel. With Steven Pearce, Julie Swift, Susan Barrett (c)	9.20 Music in Mind (c) 9.50 Ten to Ten (c) 9.50 Weather 10.00 News 10.15 Open Mind: Andrew Marr chairs a discussion (c)
06. News: Age to Age: Shireen Shad hears about museums	10.45 As Others See Us: Jane Wollstoneley, the Victorian photographer (c)

...and considers the need for a Britain; and John Miller examines the controversy surrounding the proposed London statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, who planned the destruction of Dresden during the second world war.

30 Science Now, with Peter Evans

emphasise the different attitudes towards health and diet held by Britons and Americans (a)

11.00 Richard Baker Compares Notes with Scientist Examined As coffee Ye Ye to Ye (a)

11.30 Clear Diary: Simon Brett reads diary extracts (a) (b)

12.00 12.00 News, incl 12.30 Weather 12.30 Shopping 12.45 World Service (2.30 approx)

REGULATIONS: Radio 1: 1053k/2/285m, 1089k/2/275m, 95.8-98.3k/2/433m, 90.9k/2/330m, FM 88.6-101.9, 100.0-100.9, 101.0-101.9, 102.0-102.9, 103.0-103.9, 104.0-104.9, 105.0-105.9, 106.0-106.9, 107.0-107.9, 108.0-108.9, 109.0-109.9, 110.0-110.9, 111.0-111.9, 112.0-112.9, 113.0-113.9, 114.0-114.9, 115.0-115.9, 116.0-116.9, 117.0-117.9, 118.0-118.9, 119.0-119.9, 120.0-120.9, 121.0-121.9, 122.0-122.9, 123.0-123.9, 124.0-124.9, 125.0-125.9, 126.0-126.9, 127.0-127.9, 128.0-128.9, 129.0-129.9, 130.0-130.9, 131.0-131.9, 132.0-132.9, 133.0-133.9, 134.0-134.9, 135.0-135.9, 136.0-136.9, 137.0-137.9, 138.0-138.9, 139.0-139.9, 140.0-140.9, 141.0-141.9, 142.0-142.9, 143.0-143.9, 144.0-144.9, 145.0-145.9, 146.0-146.9, 147.0-147.9, 148.0-148.9, 149.0-149.9, 150.0-150.9, 151.0-151.9, 152.0-152.9, 153.0-153.9, 154.0-154.9, 155.0-155.9, 156.0-156.9, 157.0-157.9, 158.0-158.9, 159.0-159.9, 160.0-160.9, 161.0-161.9, 162.0-162.9, 163.0-163.9, 164.0-164.9, 165.0-165.9, 166.0-166.9, 167.0-167.9, 168.0-168.9, 169.0-169.9, 170.0-170.9, 171.0-171.9, 172.0-172.9, 173.0-173.9, 174.0-174.9, 175.0-175.9, 176.0-176.9, 177.0-177.9, 178.0-178.9, 179.0-179.9, 180.0-180.9, 181.0-181.9, 182.0-182.9, 183.0-183.9, 184.0-184.9, 185.0-185.9, 186.0-186.9, 187.0-187.9, 188.0-188.9, 189.0-189.9, 190.0-190.9, 191.0-191.9, 192.0-192.9, 193.0-193.9, 194.0-194.9, 195.0-195.9, 196.0-196.9, 197.0-197.9, 198.0-198.9, 199.0-199.9, 200.0-200.9, 201.0-201.9, 202.0-202.9, 203.0-203.9, 204.0-204.9, 205.0-205.9, 206.0-206.9, 207.0-207.9, 208.0-208.9, 209.0-209.9, 210.0-210.9, 211.0-211.9, 212.0-212.9, 213.0-213.9, 214.0-214.9, 215.0-215.9, 216.0-216.9, 217.0-217.9, 218.0-218.9, 219.0-219.9, 220.0-220.9, 221.0-221.9, 222.0-222.9, 223.0-223.9, 224.0-224.9, 225.0-225.9, 226.0-226.9, 227.0-227.9, 228.0-228.9, 229.0-229.9, 230.0-230.9, 231.0-231.9, 232.0-232.9, 233.0-233.9, 234.0-234.9, 235.0-235.9, 236.0-236.9, 237.0-237.9, 238.0-238.9, 239.0-239.9, 240.0-240.9, 241.0-241.9, 242.0-242.9, 243.0-243.9, 244.0-244.9, 245.0-245.9, 246.0-246.9, 247.0-247.9, 248.0-248.9, 249.0-249.9, 250.0-250.9, 251.0-251.9, 252.0-252.9, 253.0-253.9, 254.0-254.9, 255.0-255.9, 256.0-256.9, 257.0-257.9, 258.0-258.9, 259.0-259.9, 260.0-260.9, 261.0-261.9, 262.0-262.9, 263.0-263.9, 264.0-264.9, 265.0-265.9, 266.0-266.9, 267.0-267.9, 268.0-268.9, 269.0-269.9, 270.0-270.9, 271.0-271.9, 272.0-272.9, 273.0-273.9, 274.0-274.9, 275.0-275.9, 276.0-276.9, 277.0-277.9, 278.0-278.9, 279.0-279.9, 280.0-280.9, 281.0-281.9, 282.0-282.9, 283.0-283.9, 284.0-284.9, 285.0-285.9, 286.0-286.9, 287.0-287.9, 288.0-288.9, 289.0-289.9, 290.0-290.9, 291.0-291.9, 292.0-292.9, 293.0-293.9, 294.0-294.9, 295.0-295.9, 296.0-296.9, 297.0-297.9, 298.0-298.9, 299.0-299.9, 300.0-300.9, 301.0-301.9, 302.0-302.9, 303.0-303.9, 304.0-304.9, 305.0-305.9, 306.0-306.9, 307.0-307.9, 308.0-308.9, 309.0-309.9, 310.0-310.9, 311.0-311.9, 312.0-312.9, 313.0-313.9, 314.0-314.9, 315.0-315.9, 316.0-316.9, 317.0-317.9, 318.0-318.9, 319.0-319.9, 320.0-320.9, 321.0-321.9, 322.0-322.9, 323.0-323.9, 324.0-324.9, 325.0-325.9, 326.0-326.9, 327.0-327.9, 328.0-328.9, 329.0-329.9, 330.0-330.9, 331.0-331.9, 332.0-332.9, 333.0-333.9, 334.0-334.9, 335.0-335.9, 336.0-336.9, 337.0-337.9, 338.0-338.9, 339.0-339.9, 340.0-340.9, 341.0-341.9, 342.0-342.9, 343.0-343.9, 344.0-344.9, 345.0-345.9, 346.0-346.9, 347.0-347.9, 348.0-348.9, 349.0-349.9, 350.0-350.9, 351.0-351.9, 352.0-352.9, 353.0-353.9, 354.0-354.9, 355.0-355.9, 356.0-356.9, 357.0-357.9, 358.0-358.9, 359.0-359.9, 360.0-360.9, 361.0-361.9, 362.0-362.9, 363.0-363.9, 364.0-364.9, 365.0-365.9, 366.0-366.9, 367.0-367.9, 368.0-368.9, 369.0-369.9, 370.0-370.9, 371.0-371.9, 372.0-372.9, 373.0-373.9, 374.0-374.9, 375.0-375.9, 376.0-376.9, 377.0-377.9, 378.0-378.9, 379.0-379.9, 380.0-380.9, 381.0-381.9, 382.0-382.9, 383.0-383.9, 384.0-384.9, 385.0-385.9, 386.0-386.9, 387.0-387.9, 388.0-388.9, 389.0-389.9, 390.0-390.9, 391.0-391.9, 392.0-392.9, 393.0-393.9, 394.0-394.9

99.1hz/330m; A: 1888hz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.8. S: 1215hz/330m; 99.1hz/330m; LBC: 1152hz/261m; FM 97.3. Radio 3: 96.4hz/330m; 98.8. GLR: 1458hz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: 1497hz/104m; FM 93.5.

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● SPORT 31-36

THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 1991

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

WEEKEND MONEY

Call for BT

Already 90,000 applications have been received from the public for the government's sale of shares in BT, the biggest company in Britain. The Times offers a guide to more than 5 million investors who have registered an interest in the government's sale of BT shares. The public offer of partly paid shares at 110p each closes on Wednesday. The final price will be fixed by international tender for institutions which closes at the end of business two days later. *Times*, page 20
Prospectus, pages 22, 23



Consumers are increasingly inclined to complain if they consider they have been treated unfairly by financial institutions, according to Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, in his annual report. *Page 27*

Taxing times

A Labour victory will lead to changes in inheritance tax and Miras. National insurance, pensions and privatisation stocks will also be affected. *Page 25*

Too dear

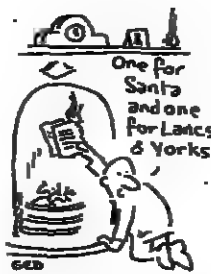
Building societies are withdrawing five-year, fixed-rate mortgages days after offering them because they cannot afford high rates on the money markets. *Page 26*

Easy money

Cardholders are making life too easy for criminals. Credit card fraud is expected to rise 10 per cent in the Christmas run-up. *Page 27*

Letters

Page 28



A reader writes that the front-end loading on his life policy is augmented by a 7.5 per cent monthly handling charge. Another wonders if the Co-op only accepts gold card applicants who run up monthly interest bills.

Poles apart

Poland seems likely to go back on its radical reforms, much to the horror of the West and the bewilderment of Russia, which is about to do the same. *Page 23*

Share plunge

Shares in YJ Lovell more than halved yesterday, after the construction group warned investors that it had broken guidelines from its bankers. *Page 21*

Water plea

Another chairman of one of the new public water companies has complained about excessive government interference. *Page 20*



Kevin Maxwell is striving to hold together the empire created by his father. But yesterday, a large American bank sold a stake in Maxwell Communication, which it was holding as security on a family deal. *Page 21*

Failures faster

Companies are going out of business at a faster rate than at any time in the past five years, despite government claims that the economy is improving. *Page 21*

Gatt deadline

Gatt has met its end-November deadline for completing draft texts of agreements to unlock the stalled Uruguay round talks. *Page 20*

Monday

A 16-page supplement, published with *The Times* on Monday, looks at this year's winners of the National Training Awards, sponsored by the Prince of Wales.

Own name

Financial advisers have started to market insurance bonds and unit trusts branded with their own names, after the reversal of the decision by regulatory authorities to ban them completely. They have lost many of the advantages they used to enjoy. Surveys indicate a lower average performance compared with life funds generally. *Page 26*

WEEK ENDING

Matthew Bond

Status quo for sale

A week that began with British Rail finally admitting that it was unable to make its trains run on time, and deciding that it might do better if it scrapped some timetables altogether, was never going to be a good one for those who hold traditional British standards dear.

So it has proved. As the week draws to a close, a nation of stiff upper lips has been transformed into a land of trembling lowers, as one by one long-cherished British institutions stumble towards the pages of the history books.

For the good old pound sterling it has proved a particularly trying time. Whether you believe the rot set in in 1931 with the abandonment of the gold standard, or October last year when we finally limped into the European exchange-rate mechanism, the last few days have provided a pitiful spectacle. As the *grande dame* of the currency markets was ignominiously tossed on a stormy sea of international speculation, it became ever more difficult to tell whether *libra Britannica* was waving or drowning, floating or sinking?

Long gone may the days be when the actions of the British government or the Bank of England, its mouthpiece, were the key influence on the pound's level. But with a Chancellor whose best shot this week was to tell MPs that his technical economic recovery would leave



homeowners, businesses and entire industries still in recession, is that altogether surprising?

So while Mr Major stepped up his efforts to turn the impending Maastricht summit into some sort of Panglossian Euro-fudge, sterling was buffeted from peak to trough by the French and German finance ministries, their respective central banks and the impoverished American consumer. An unrelenting spectacle that has done little to allay the fear that Mr Major may yet fall for the narrow-waisted charms of the ERM and EMS, rush headlong into ECU and EMU and forsake the familiar pound for the exotic ecu. The pre-election slogans have already been written. "John Major rules, EK." But for which party?

Elsewhere, it was the British legal system and the British Sunday that came under threat. When the legal system again demonstrated its ability to send the wrong people to prison and fill and fiscal duty apparently no longer extend to paying taxes introduced by your mother, it should have come as little surprise that a number of leading supermarket groups decided that the Shops Act 1950 presented no obstacle to their opening on Sundays.

All well and good. With the high stress and by-passes of Britain still in the grip of retail recession, offering seven days of temptation rather than six doubtless looks a sensible move. But presumably there will be no objections when their customers treat the Theft Act 1968 with the same disdain. Ironically, the saviour of the British Sunday could yet be the European Commission, which, having tried, in vain, to get British Airways to reduce its European airfares, plans to outlaw Sunday working.

A Euro-sop, if ever the British saw one. With our way of life crumbling all around us, a day of national mourning seems most appropriate. But please, not Sunday... I'm going shopping.

★★★★★

BUSINESS PROFILE: Chris Haskins

The reluctant businessman

The chairman of Northern Foods tells Gillian Bowditch he would have been happier as a farmer or a journalist

Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, enjoys a good argument, which is just as well, within the business community, his political and social beliefs often put him in a minority of one. Few chairmen of FT-SE 100 companies have fallen foul of the Labour Party over their radical views, have marched in support of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament or believe that British governments have too much power.

Haskins is an approachable man who speaks his mind and encourages others to do the same but does not appear to have melted much over the years. Although wealthy, his friends say his well-developed social conscience is unaffected by his rise to the top of the corporate tree.

"Other businessmen consider me a bit of a maverick," he says. "I'm in business by default. My interests have always been farming, still are. I'm a much better farmer than businessman."

Russell Edey, managing director of NM Rothschild, a non-executive director of Northern Foods and a friend of 14 years, says what sets Haskins apart from the rest of the business community is compassion combined with astute political awareness. "He's highly intelligent, very articulate, has a strong moral code and a good sense of humour. Quite fearless," says Edey.

Haskins says his outspokenness sometimes gets him into trouble. "If I have a fault it is that I talk a little bit too openly to people. I prefer to tell people too much, to be indiscreet," he says.

"He does wear his heart on his sleeve," says Edey. "When I first met him he tended to be over-trusting. He subscribed to Rousseau's concept of the Noble Savage, that people were not corrupt until they had been corrupted. He is a bit more wary now."

Haskins says criticisms centre on his volatility and inconsistency. "People might say they never know where they stand with me. A good idea today might be a bad idea tomorrow."

Clinton Silver, deputy chairman of Marks and Spencer, whose biggest supplier is Northern Foods, says: "I would say he was excitable, rather than volatile. He is easily moved to anger and also to laughter. He is an independent spirit, full of compassion. Behind that raffish, exterior lurks an enormous intellect."

Gilda, his wife, says he is prepared to take risks but adds that he is quite happy to send someone else over the barricades. "He likes to give me the bullets and tell me to fire the shots."

Haskins, one of four children, was born into a protestant family in Wicklow, Southern Ireland in 1937. His father was a dairy farmer and his grandfather an entrepreneur with a milling business in Wicklow town.

His mother was an intelligent, self-taught woman who encouraged his interest in books. Temperamentally, she was introspective. Haskins says his personality is more akin to his father, an outgoing man who loved the farm and whose reading habits did not extend beyond the *Irish Farmers' Journal*. He was sent to St Columba's, a protestant school in Dublin, and went on to study history at Trinity College where he met Gilda, who was instrumental in developing her husband's political and social conscience, taking him on the first Aldermaston March. She came from a Quaker background and Haskins was impressed by her family's beliefs.

He became a reluctant businessman having been thwarted in his first two choices of career. After the family milling business failed, his brother took over the farm, an ambition Haskins had nursed. A career in journalism was denied him when his mother, who did not consider it suitable,

challenging environment in which to work. "On the day I left in 1962 we had 30 strikes going on simultaneously," he says.

Haskins declares he is not political in a party sense but he was active while at Ford. "I was thrown out of the Labour party by George Brown, who failed to check if I was a member. I wasn't. I went into work, picked up the *Manchester Guardian* to discover three people who were putting up candidates on the peace issue were being expelled from the Labour Party and I was one. Ford was very good about it."

He might have stayed with Ford if it had not been for Alec Horsley, his father-in-law, who had established Northern Dairies during the war and who was keen to have Haskins in the business. At the age of 39, Mr Horsley remains a dominant personality.

Nicholas, Horsley's son, was in the business and Haskins joined to manage a string of small dairies in Belfast. He became chairman in 1986, after the departure of his brother-in-law, who had become ill. The move coincided with a period of instability at Northern Foods. Haskins saw off three predators and reorganised the business, withdrawing from America after the business there was beset with problems. Last week's £359 million acquisition by Northern of Express Dairy and Eden Vale from Grand Metropolitan secures Northern's position in the FT-SE 100 and makes it Britain's largest supplier of home delivered milk.

Any political ambitions Haskins may have toiled with have evaporated as his business career has flourished, but he remains fiercely interested and enjoys the company of politicians. "My politics tend to be against the government. I think in principle, governments have more power than they should have. The role of a democracy should be to challenge the government and protect minorities. I think big business is too narrow in its approach to politics and the same goes for large trade unions. When governments change, the whole economic policy changes because the balance of power is moved around by the trade unions on one side and big business on the other."

Haskins works well with people of different political persuasions. He says he is impressed with John Major as a chairman and a listener. Those who know him well say that he is close to Neil Kinnock. "I'm by nature an accommodator," he says. "I'm fascinated by politics but I could never have been a politician. I could not have taken the party line and I'm not tough enough. People are always rubbingish politicians but I have a high regard for them."

He is fervently pro-Europe, be-

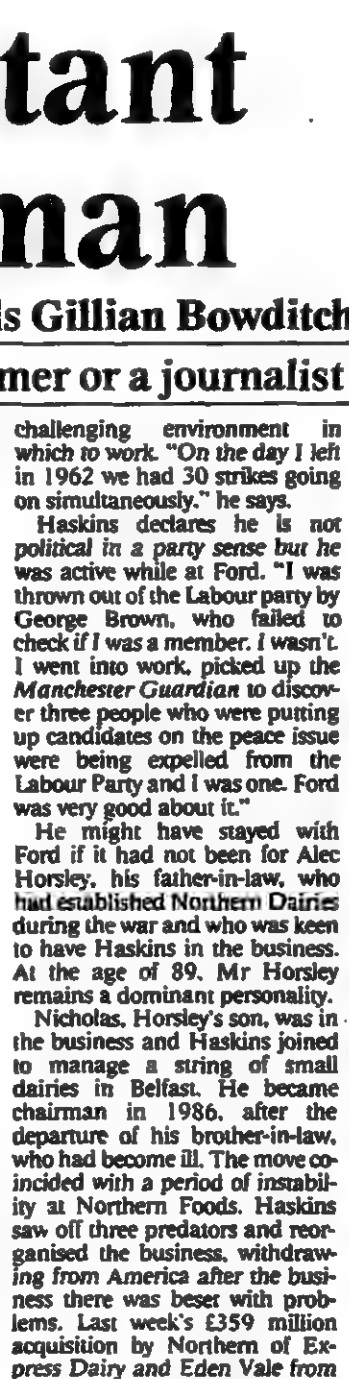
'I'm in business by default. My interests have always been farming, still are'

neglected to tell him of a job offer from the *Irish Times*.

By the time she told him, he was in Manchester struggling at De La Rue, the printer. He did not regret the move to the north of England although along with his accent, he still retains close ties with southern Ireland. "I always had a great belief in the democratic liberalism of Britain," he says. "It went through a bad time in the 1980s when I found the attitudes which prevailed offensive, particularly for minorities and for people who were down on their luck. But people have recovered their sense of proportion."

But the job at De La Rue was another matter. "When they took over, they didn't know what to do with me. I did nothing for a year and then eventually I started causing trouble and they fired me. I don't know what the hell I was meant to be doing, training to be a trainee I think."

He was jobless and about to become a father. In a state of desperation he found a job in the personnel division of Ford, Dagenham, a move which suited him. The company was well-known as a hot house of young talent and a



First love: Chris Haskins is happiest walking his farm with his wife Gilda and his dogs

believing that a united Europe is the only hope of checking nationalism and ethnic racism, which he sees as the main threat to peace.

His responsibilities weigh heavily on his shoulders. He is happiest on his 800-acre farm in Yorkshire, which is run by Peter, his son. He has five children, the youngest two are adopted, and one grandchild. At weekends he feeds the beef cattle and spends four hours a day walking all the fields with his four dogs.

"I like to get home," he says. "I'm not practical. I drive a tractor but they won't let me drive the combine. I've crashed into a lot of things over the years."

Gilda says he is a surprisingly lonely person and has become more introspective with the years. While there is no compromising his beliefs, she says the nature of the job means that away from home he has to be a different person and operate in a world whose values he does not share. "He sometimes feels quite sick about it," she says.

"I'm much more introverted than I appear," Haskins says. "There's nothing I like better than being on my own, with the dogs, away from the world. Like all people who appear gregarious, deep down there is a great self-questioning."

land Authority say it is not uncommon to see a freighter departing with five or six *Ladas* chained to the deck.

Pairs or complete cars can be sold in the Soviet Union for precious hard currency—dollars, marks, pounds or Finnish markka—which in turn the crewmen and their families can use to buy good cuts of meat, perfume, shoes, televisions, or any of the other desiderata to be had on the thriving black market.

In times gone by, the sailors would have been sent to jail in the Soviet Union for breaking the strict communist rules on speculation, but now the laws on possession of foreign currency are being redrawn.

Last laugh for the born-again Lada

By GEORGE SIVELL

A GENERATION weaned on jokes about Lada, the Russian car, would be astonished to discover that in the Russian language the word means beloved. They would be all the more amused to learn that it can also mean harmony or concord, and a derived verb means to go well—something that would not even be attributed to the vehicle even by the Russians.

However, to Soviet people struggling to make ends meet in the wreckage of the command economy, Ladas are becoming a serious business.

In the week that brought West-

ern agreement to roll over Soviet debt, the revelation that there was no gold, and that witnessed the unlikely prospect of America spending \$500 million of its stretched budget to dismantle Soviet nuclear warheads, one might even have expected news that the Siberian salt mines had run out.

The most illuminating tale of the desperate struggle to exist while Soviet politicians dither over economic reform comes, however, from the unlikely mouth of a Sunderland docker. It appears that the crews of visiting Soviet freighters go scouring in their spare time.

But do the sailors go straight to the public houses, nightclubs or



shops? No. First call is the local tip, repository of precious wind-screens, sunroofs, and other spares for Ladas. Sometimes the forgers from the East strike lucky. Staff at the Port of Sunder-



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Doubts return over end to recession

Liquidations accelerate to five-year peak

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

COMPANIES are going out of business at a faster rate than at any time during the last five years, despite government claims that the economy is improving, official figures on corporate insolvencies show.

Even though any decline in insolvencies would be expected to lag behind a recovery, the fact that trade department data show an increasing rate of liquidations rather than any signs of improvement is a gloomy indication of the continuing impact of the recession.

Labour seized on the figures, published for the trade department by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, with Gordon Brown, shadow trade secretary, saying they made it "irrefragable" that the prime minister ends the do-nothing action which characterises government policy and takes measures to halt the disastrous fall in investment.

The seasonally adjusted figures show that the number of company insolvencies in England and Wales for the third quarter of this year rose to 717 from 5,495 in the previous quarter.

That increase of just over 4 per cent compares with a rate of a little under 3 per cent in the previous quarter. While the latest rise is slower than increases in insolvencies earlier in the year, which were up to five times the current rate, the increase is getting larger during a half-year period in which both the prime minister and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, have said the economy is recovering.

The latest quarterly figure is up 42 per cent on the level of a year ago, when the number of companies going out of business was already rising fast. The third-quarter figures mean that for the year to the end of September, the seasonally adjusted number of corporate insolvencies was 2,220, or 2.2 per cent of all active companies.

Ron Taylor, director-general of the chambers of commerce, said: "The present rate of failure is like tearing every fifth page out of Yellow Pages."

Within total third-quarter insolvencies, compulsory liquidations numbered 2,329, or 41 per cent of the total,

against 1,677 in the similar period last year, while creditors' voluntary liquidations numbered 3,388, or 59 per cent, compared with 2,355 a year ago.

Saying that the company failure rate gave "cause for alarm", the chambers said it was "disappointing" that there had been no levelling out in the business failure rate — indeed, that the trend was still upward.

Mr Taylor said that recent industrial surveys had shown a rise in confidence. "Our fear is that business confidence will be eroded by the continuing high level of insolvency and bankruptcy linked to the failure of consumer spending — as yet to take off in the Christmas period."

The chambers said the figures indicated that further insolvencies and bankruptcies were still to be expected.

The trade department also announced new figures for individual insolvencies in England and Wales. At 6,705, the total of individual insolvencies was 80 per cent higher, from the 3,725 in the three months to the end of September last year.

Citibank sells Maxwell shares

By Neil Bennett

CITIBANK, America's leading bank, has sold a 1 per cent stake in Maxwell Communication Corporation, which it was holding as security on a failed foreign exchange deal with the Maxwell family's debt-stricken private business empire.

The disposal may have contributed to the disastrous collapse in MCC's shares since the beginning of the month.

MCC informed the Stock Exchange yesterday that Citibank no longer held a stake of more than 3 per cent. Citibank originally took control of a 3.8 per cent stake, or 25 million shares, to cover the foreign exchange deal by Robert Maxwell Group, one of the family's key private companies, on October 18.

The bank later admitted it sold 5.75 million shares, or 0.9 per cent of the company, in 21 transactions between November 4 and November 20. The disposals started when Robert Maxwell Group failed to settle the foreign exchange deal due to cash flow problems.

The announcement is further evidence that Robert Maxwell knew about a mounting crisis in his business empire shortly before his death on November 5.

When the bank started selling, the day before Mr Maxwell's death, MCC's share price stood at 139p. By the time selling had ended, the shares had collapsed to an all-time low of 36p.

While Mr Maxwell's death and news of a Serious Fraud Office enquiry into a £55 million loan by Swiss Bank Corporation to Robert Maxwell Group had a devastating effect on the price, Citibank's sales probably depressed the shares still further.

A spokeswoman for Citibank refused to comment on how many shares the bank still holds. At a meeting of the Maxwell family's bankers last Monday, Citibank agreed not to sell any more of its stake while details of a reconstruction plan are formulated.

At the meeting, however, Citibank made clear it was unwilling to participate in any long-term rescue plan or debt standstill agreement, since it saw itself as a trade creditor of the Robert Maxwell Group, not a banker.

The bank's steering committee, comprising Midland, Lloyds, Paribas and Sumitomo Trust and Banking Corporation, led by National Westminster, is dealing with Citibank's case as a priority.



Media battle: Tony O'Reilly, under attack from Conrad Black over Fairfax

The steering committee is continuing to work with NM Rothschild, the Maxwell family's adviser, to draw up a rescue plan to present to the family's 30 banks next Tuesday.

Conrad Black, the Canadian publisher, has attacked the tactics of Tony O'Reilly, the Irish businessman and his main rival in the battle for the John Fairfax newspaper group (Brian Buchanan writes from Sydney).

He accused Dr O'Reilly of acting to "stir up and incite political difficulties" for Mr Black's Tourang consortium. His comments followed the surprise withdrawal of Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man, from Tourang on Wednesday. Mr Packer's move set

off speculation that he would be interested in a bid for Mirror Group Newspapers.

Mr Black, owner of The Daily Telegraph, was speaking in an interview from London on Mr Packer's Nine television network in Australia.

"The rule that we all accepted as governing us at Tourang when we started was that if at any time the higher interest of the bid would be served by any one of us withdrawing, we would do so," Mr Black said.

"I offered to do that on one occasion when concern over foreign investment levels was quite amplified."

"He (Mr Packer) said, and I quote him: 'A good general has to know when to advance

and when to retreat and in the better interests of the cause I shall now retreat'."

Mr Black said he genuinely regarded Dr O'Reilly as a "friend". But he said that "on occasion, with friends like that I don't need enemies the way he's conducted this particular contest. Dr O'Reilly's tactic has been to stir up and incite political difficulties for us."

Meanwhile, Tourang appears to have enhanced its bid chances by sorting out its differences with Malcolm Turnbull, the representative of Fairfax junk bond holders. Mr Turnbull has resigned as Tourang director instead of being dismissed as expected after falling out with other Tourang directors.

Lovell plunges after warning

By Matthew Bond

SHARES in YJ Lovell, the construction group, plunged from 96p to 32p after the company issued a warning that it was in breach of its banking covenants and unable to pay a final dividend.

Lovell said its figures for the year to September 30 would contain provisions of £62 million, well over twice what it expected when it launched a £31 million rights issue in April. At that time, the company said it intended to pay an unchanged final dividend of 6.75p.

The results are due to be reported on December 16, but Robert Seliger, chief executive, rejected criticism to the effect that a warning could have been given earlier. Provisions were decided at the November board meeting, he said, adding that he did not expect "any uplift at all" in 1992.

The writedowns on the land bank and unsold commercial properties will be treated as an exceptional item: the cost of withdrawing from Spain and America will be taken below the line.

Lovell said that it had been caught out by a short-lived recovery in house prices in March and April. That had led it to believe Lovell Homes could sell 1,000 units in the year to September 30. It had actually sold 865. Both residential and commercial property prices had fallen further.

Year-end borrowings of £65.7 million were at a similar level to last year, but the provisions have led to gearing "greater than that deemed prudent". Although the company had tried to ease the problem by selling its Scottish housing operation for £10 million, it still expected to breach certain banking covenants. Talks were taking place with Barclays Bank, its principal bank.

The warning sent shares in other housebuilders sharply lower. The market was clearly worried that Lovell would not be alone in reporting higher than expected provisions. Shares in Taylor Woodrow dropped 8p to 144p. Higgs & Hill fell 31p to 109p. Costain was down 8p to 54p. Artec 6p to 168p, McCarthy & Stone 9p to 47p and Westbury 8p to 144p.

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Dollar rise undermined by warning on economy

By Anatole Kaletsky, Economics Editor

THE dollar advanced strongly against the mark yesterday, covering to levels last seen 10 weeks ago before Wall Street's slide, and providing relief for sterling and other EM currencies beleaguered by the mark.

Some traders gave a warning, however, that the mark's sickness had been exaggerated by very thin markets for Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday in America. They said fears of an ERM realignment around the time of the asstirring summit 'could continue to dog sterling and currencies next week.

Equity prices worldwide continued to stabilise, with London and New York stock markets showing little change over a day of thin business. In Tokyo and London, the dollar rose by 2½ pence to \$1.64 and sterling appreciated from DM2.86 to \$2.8750, on predictions of other coup in the Soviet Union reported by a Japanese news agency. But dealers need the mark's weakness probably due to developments in the Soviet Union or fundamental economic factors than to widespread buying of dollars and a after dealers found them-

selves short when the sharp rise of the mark ran out of steam this week.

When the New York markets opened, the short-covering by European speculators was met with buying by American investors and the German currency rebounded. By mid-afternoon in New York, the dollar had fallen back to DM1.6230 and the pound to DM2.8695.

Another factor moving sentiment against the dollar was a gloomy assessment of the American economy by Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International

Monetary Fund. M Camdessus, speaking at a conference in Chile, said the IMF had "observed signs that the US economy's recovery could be less solid than expected".

He added that the bad news on the American economy had "given rise to a visible loss of confidence among consumers and investors" and that this loss of confidence threatened to make the economic situation even worse. Revised figures from the Bank of England showed that M0, the officially targeted narrow money supply measure, rose 0.7 per cent in September, more than double the original figure, suggesting more buoyant consumer spending.

The final data confirmed the 0.2 per cent rise in October, while the latest weekly figures for November indicated a rise in M0 of 0.1 per cent this month. The annual growth rates for M0 were 2.2 and 2.6 per cent respectively in September and October.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said the figures appeared to show the decline in consumer spending had bottomed out, but that there was no real recovery in evidence.



Camdessus: gloomy

Nestlé seeks all of Vittel

By Wolfgang Münchau

NESTLÉ, the Swiss food group, is bidding for the outstanding shares in Vittel, the French mineral water company, in the second bid for a French mineral water company this week.

Nestlé owns 52 per cent of Vittel, and is bidding Fr953 per share, which compares with the previous night's closing share price of Fr714. The bid values Vittel at about Fr2.2 billion.

On Thursday, the Italian Agnelli family announced a bid for Exor, the parent company of Perrier, the most famous French mineral water group. Analysts believe that the flurry of takeover bids comes in response to the state of the market, which has been depressed because of the economic slowdown and the weather.

In Vittel's case, Nestlé's bid price, although substantially above the market price, is still below the year's high of Fr1.072.

Under French stock market rules, designed to protect minority shareholders, bidders who own one-third of the shares need to bid for at least another third if they wish to increase their holdings, while shareholders who hold more than 50 per cent have to bid for all the shares.

Lloyd's action groups set up

By Jonathan Prynn

10 more action groups of making Lloyd's names held inaugural meetings 1 appointed committees to 2 sider the circumstances 3 and their losses.

The losses affect about 50 names in total on three dates. Both groups are using a low-key approach 4 have not yet called in 5 yers.

The first of the two meetings, held on Thursday, was ended by more than 200 members on the Bohling syndicates 216 and 833, which 6 huge losses because of

Hurricane Hugo reinsurance claims. The syndicates were taken over by Castle Underwriting this year.

Trevor James, a "semi-retired" businessman, was appointed to chair a steering committee, "to investigate the cause of the potential substantial losses". Members of the group have been charged £300 for initial expenses.

The second group met yesterday to consider the 570 per cent losses incurred by Merrett syndicate 421 for the still-rent syndicate 1983 year. The losses were caused by pollution and

asbestosis claims under seven run-off contracts written to reinsure other Lloyd's syndicates.

About 50 of the 340 names on the syndicate attended the meeting committee headed by John Franklin, a Morgan Grenfell corporate financier. No change is being levied. All but two of the names on the syndicate have a £10,000 line, giving losses to date of £57,000.

Both sets of losses are to be the subject of internal Lloyd's loss review panels.

Arrow advisers 'conspired to cheat'

By Our City Staff

ADVISERS to the Blue Arrow £837 million cash call disguised the "flop" of a share issue with a solution that would "heat" the market and corrupt accepted advice, the prosecution claimed at The Old Bailey yesterday.

With reputations at stake, and a huge financial interest of their companies at risk, the advisers chose to deceive the market over the outcome of the rights issue rather than admit failure, the jury was told. The plan was devised at the time of the issue on September 28, 1987. Professionals to the employment agency decided at a results meeting that they should disguise the failure of the Blue Arrow share price 17p as a "conservative" estimate, or as much as "30p", Mr Purnell said the flop of the issue would leave advisers with "astonishing"

that would deceive the market place," Mr Purnell said.

It is alleged that County NatWest, the merchant bank; NatWest Investment Bank, its immediate parent; UBS Phillips and Drew Securities, the broker; and five individuals conspired to defraud the market. The Crown alleges they secretly inflated the result of the issue from 38 per cent take-up of shares to 49 per cent, and also bought huge stakes in the subsequent placing of remaining stock, to complete the deal and to allow them to present the outcome as a success.

Counsel said that both County and Phillips and Drew had massive stakes in the issue as underwriters. Failure of the deal meant their companies were at risk, and the Blue Arrow share price 17p as a "conservative" estimate, or as much as "30p", Mr Purnell said the flop of the issue would leave advisers with "astonishing"

financial commitments. He said while the defendants said they wanted to do their best by their client and underwriters, it was their own companies that had money at stake. Completing the deal had been a "substantial feather in the cap" of the advisers.

Launching his closing speech on the 16th day of the trial, Mr Purnell said the defendants were confronted at the issue's close with that situation. "Confronted by a loss of their reputation, confronted by the financial implications of a flop — they decided the solution was to cheat."

The 1987 stock market crash had foiled any chance of making money on shares, the court heard, but Mr Purnell said the advisers had undertaken a high-risk strategy because even weeks before the deadline they appreciated there was a chance of failure.

The trial continues on Monday.

INTERNATIONAL BOND II

NEW RATE UP TO

12.50%

BEST OFFSHORE RATE FROM A TOP 10 BUILDING SOCIETY SUBSIDIARY

Minimum Balance	Gross pa Variable*
£50,000+	12.50%
£25,000+	11.50%
£5,000+	11.25%

* (incl £5,000)

☐ I/we wish to open an International Bond II and enclose a cheque for £ (in £5,000). Cheques should be made payable to Bristol & West International Ltd. Please write your name and address clearly on the reverse of your cheque.

☐ I/we would like information on the following: ☐ International Bond II ☐ Guernsey Gross 90 Day Account ☐ Guernsey Gross Instant Access Account ☐ Guernsey Monthly Income Account

NAME (SURNAME FIRST)
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TELEPHONE
NATURALITY
DATE OF BIRTH

Please send to: International Bond II, Bristol & West International Ltd, 50 High Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, Tel: 0481 720408

At the Bristol & West, we like our customers to enjoy the best rate. And we're once again offering you exactly that, through our Guernsey subsidiary Bristol & West International Limited.

With our International Bond Issue II, you'll earn 12.50% gross pa on balances of £50,000 or more. We also guarantee to give you up to 2.75% over the first tier of our Guernsey Instant Access Account until 30th November 1992.

And what's more, you don't have to tie up all your money during the lifetime of the Bond. You can make a one-off instant withdrawal of up to £5,000 anytime, as long as your balance remains at £10,000 or more. And after 1st September 1992, you can also enjoy instant access to the interest that you've earned.

Our minimum balance is £5,000 and interest is paid gross. But you should act now, as this offer is strictly limited. Opening an International Bond Issue II couldn't be simpler. All you need to do is fill in the coupon and send us a cheque today.

Or for further information about this, or any of our other excellent offshore accounts — like the Guernsey Gross 90 Day, Guernsey Gross Instant Access or Guernsey Monthly Income — pick up a leaflet at your local Bristol & West Building Society branch.

Deposits made with offices of Bristol & West International Ltd in Guernsey are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under The U.K. Banking Act 1987. However, deposits and other liabilities of Bristol & West International Limited are guaranteed by the Bristol & West Building Society under the terms of the Building Societies Act 1986. Registered under the protection of depositors (Banking of Guernsey) ordinance 1971 as amended.



BRISTOL & WEST INTERNATIONAL

CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. THE GROSS RATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUE II ARE GUARANTEED TO MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING DIFFERENTIALS OVER THE FIRST TIER OF GUERNSEY INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT UNTIL 30TH NOVEMBER 1992: £50,000-£249,999 AT 2.25%, £250,000-£499,999 AT 2.50%, £500,000-£749,999 AT 2.75%, REVERTING TO GUERNSEY GROSS 90 DAY ACCOUNT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FROM 1ST DECEMBER, 1992. THE INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUE II WILL BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT NOTICE WHEN FUNDING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. INTEREST WILL BE PAID GROSS. FUNDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED AT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF BRISTOL & WEST INTERNATIONAL LTD., 50 HIGH STREET, ST. PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS. TEL: 0481 720408 (DURING OFFICE HOURS). WE MAY ELECT NOT TO OPEN ACCOUNTS UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED ABOUT THE STATUS AND IDENTITY OF THE PROPOSED ACCOUNT HOLDER. BRISTOL & WEST INTERNATIONAL LTD. IS A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE BRISTOL AND WEST BUILDING SOCIETY. COPIES OF THE MOST RECENT AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF BRISTOL AND WEST INTERNATIONAL LTD. ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST IN WRITING FROM THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE. THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF BRISTOL & WEST INTERNATIONAL LTD. IS 1 LE MARCHANT ST, ST. PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS. THE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS IN GUERNSEY. BRISTOL & WEST INTERNATIONAL LTD. IS NOT A REGISTERED PERSON UNDER THE BANKING BUSINESS (JERSEY) ORDER 1991.

THE BT SHARE OFFER



This document is issued on behalf of HM Treasury by S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., a member of The Securities and Futures Authority Limited and financial adviser to HM Treasury in connection with the Combined Offers. This document does not contain any information about British Telecommunications public limited company (the "Company") and its subsidiaries. Before deciding whether to apply for Shares, you should read the Prospectus dated 21st November, 1991 issued by S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. (the "Prospectus"). Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained from any UK branch of NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank. Expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings in this document. S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. or any of its connected or affiliated companies (or its or their employees) may have a position in Shares or other securities of (or options, warrants or rights with respect to, or interests in, Shares or other securities of) the Company and/or any of such other companies may make a market or act as a principal in any transactions in Shares or other such securities. Before deciding whether to apply for Shares you should consider whether Shares are a suitable investment for you. Their value can go down as well as up. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. If you need advice, you should consult an appropriate professional adviser. This document is not for distribution in Australia, Canada, France, Japan or the United States. No application may be made by or on behalf of an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan. No application may be made by a person in the United States. Applications by persons in other jurisdictions must comply with local laws, in connection with the International Tender Offer, the Global Co-ordinator may operate or effect transactions with or for you or on your behalf in the market place of the Shares and/or any other securities of (or options, warrants or rights with respect to, or interests in, the Shares or other securities of) the Company at a level which might not otherwise be available in the open market. Such stabilising, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

British Telecommunications public limited company

(incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 with registered number 1800000)

Offer for sale
by
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
on behalf of

The Lords Commissioners of HM Treasury

Under the Combined Offers being made in the UK and elsewhere up to 1,350 million Shares (subject to increase) are available for purchase.

The Combined Offers comprise the UK Public Offer of Shares at the UK Public Offer Price and the International Tender Offer of Shares at the International Tender Offer Price.

Of the UK Public Offer Price, 110p per Share is payable now, 120p is payable by 7th July, 1992 and the balance is payable by 2nd March, 1993.

Of the International Tender Offer Price, 125p per Share is payable now and the balance is payable in instalments of the same amounts and by the same dates as in the UK Public Offer.

THE UK PUBLIC OFFER

The UK Public Offer is being made by means of an offer for sale in the UK and certain other countries. Under the UK Public Offer, completed application forms must be received by 10.00 a.m. on 4th December, 1991. Instructions for return of your Public application form are set out below. The UK Public Offer Price will be 15p less than the International Tender Offer Price, which is expected to be determined on 9th December, 1991. An announcement will be made when it is determined. The right is reserved to reject, in whole or in part, any application. Applications cannot be revoked pending acceptance by HM Treasury.

ALLOCATIONS

The basis of allocation of the Shares will be announced prior to the commencement of dealings in Interim Rights. If your application is successful in whole or in part, you will be sent an Interim Certificate for the Shares allocated to you. If there is a heavy demand for Shares, you may be allocated fewer Shares than you applied for or, in some cases, none at all. If no part of your application is accepted, all money paid on application will be returned without interest. If your application is accepted in part, you will receive (without interest) a refund cheque for the balance of the money paid on application.

DEALINGS

It is expected that dealings in the Interim Rights will commence on the London Stock Exchange at 8.30 a.m. on 9th December, 1991 and that, circumstances permitting, Interim Certificates will be sent to applicants allocated Shares under the UK Public Offer on or before 18th December, 1991. If circumstances require a revised posting plan, an announcement will be made. Applicants who deal before receipt of an Interim Certificate will do so at the risk of selling Shares for which they have not received an allocation. The UK Public Offer is not conditional on dealings commencing in the Interim Rights.

NO MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

ONLY ONE APPLICATION MAY BE MADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY PERSON IN THE UK PUBLIC OFFER.

Any application which breaches this rule is a "multiple application". Multiple applications and suspected multiple applications are liable to be rejected. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising a multiple application for their own benefit, or that of any other person, either solely or jointly with other persons.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

If you apply for BT Shares in the UK Public Offer you will be agreeing with HM Treasury, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Lloyds Bank Plc and the Company as set out below.

OFFER TO PURCHASE SHARES

- You offer to purchase from HM Treasury at the UK Public Offer Price the number of Shares indicated in your application (or any smaller number in respect of which your application is accepted) in the Company on these terms and conditions.
- You agree that your offer cannot be revoked prior to 8th January, 1992 and promise that the cheque or draft accompanying your application will be honoured on first presentation. HM Treasury agrees that it will not, prior to 8th January, 1992, offer any Shares to any person other than by means of one of the procedures referred to in the Prospectus. This paragraph 2 constitutes a collateral contract between you and HM Treasury. It becomes binding when your application is posted or, if delivered, is received by a receiving bank or it is posted to an address representing, or (if delivered) is received by, a Share Shop which has agreed, in the Share Dealing and Application Agreement, to provide a collection service in relation to application forms, or it is received by a receiving bank.
- If your application form is not completed correctly or is amended, or if the accompanying cheque or draft is for the wrong amount, it may still be treated as valid. In these circumstances HM Treasury's (or its agent's) decision as to whether to treat your application as valid, and how to continue, amend or complete it, shall be final. You will not, however, be treated as having offered to purchase more Shares than is indicated in your application.
- Any application may be rejected in whole or in part.

ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR OFFER

- HM Treasury may accept your offer to purchase (if your application is received, valid, processed and not rejected) either—
 - by notifying the London Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case the acceptance will be on that basis); or
 - by notifying acceptance to the receiving bank which processed your application.
 The acceptance may be of the whole or any part of your offer and, accordingly, the number of Shares you offer to purchase may be scaled down.
- If HM Treasury accepts your offer to purchase (in whole or in part), there will be a binding contract under which you will be required to purchase the Shares in respect of which your offer has been accepted if, prior to 8th January, 1992, the International Tender Offer Price is determined by HM Treasury and accepted by the Managers by execution and delivery of the Purchase Memorandum contemplated by the International Tender Offer Agreement.
- You will not be entitled to exercise any remedy of rescission for innocent misrepresentation at any time after acceptance. This does not affect any other rights you may have.

PAYMENT FOR THE SHARES

- You undertake to pay the purchase price for the Shares in respect of which your offer is accepted in three instalments as described in the Prospectus. The cheque or bankers draft accompanying your application may be presented for payment before acceptance of your offer, but this will not constitute acceptance of your offer, either in whole or in part. The proceeds of this presentation will be held pending acceptance and, if your offer is accepted, and the condition in paragraph 15 above is satisfied, will be applied in discharging the first instalment, which is due upon acceptance. The second instalment is due by 7th July, 1992 and the final instalment by 2nd March, 1993 (and, in each case, for value by 3.00 p.m. on that date). Following payment in full of the purchase price, HM Treasury will arrange for the Shares which you have agreed to purchase to be transferred to you. This transfer will not, however, occur before 9th February, 1993.
- If your application is invalid, is rejected or is not accepted in full, or if the circumstances described in paragraph 6 above do not occur prior to 8th January, 1992, any proceeds of the cheque or draft accompanying your application (or, if your application is accepted in part, the unused balance of those proceeds) will be refunded to you without interest.

- HM Treasury may require you to pay interest on its other resulting costs (or both) if the cheque or draft accompanying your application is not honoured on first presentation. If you are required to pay interest, you will pay the amount determined by HM Treasury or its agent to be the interest on the amount of the cheque or draft from the date of acceptance until the date of receipt of cleared funds. The rate of interest will be the then published bank base rate of a clearing bank selected by HM Treasury plus 2 per cent. per annum. HM Treasury may apply part of any payment received from you in paying this interest or other costs. In this event (or if the late payment is for other reasons insufficient) the remainder of the payment will be applied in paying the first instalment in respect of as many Shares as possible. Any balance of the payment remaining will be held by HM Treasury on your behalf and may be applied in paying any other amounts due to HM Treasury. If HM Treasury terminates the agreement to purchase Shares under paragraph 11 below and no other amounts remain due to HM Treasury, the remaining balance will be returned to you (without interest).
- If your cheque or bankers draft is not honoured on first presentation then, at any time until HM Treasury has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of a Share, HM Treasury may terminate the agreement to purchase that Share. This termination will be effected by notice being despatched to you. In the event of termination you will pay to HM Treasury, on demand, such amount as may be certified on its behalf as being necessary to compensate HM Treasury for the losses, costs and expenses incurred or expected to be incurred as a result of the cheque or draft not being honoured on first presentation and as a result of termination (taking into account any amounts paid under paragraph 10 above and any profit gained on the resale of the Share).
- If you receive any Interim Certificate in respect of the Shares you have agreed to purchase before HM Treasury has received, in cleared funds, the first instalment in respect of those Shares, you shall forthwith return it to the receiving bank from which it was sent.

INSTALLMENT AGREEMENT

- Upon receipt by HM Treasury in cleared funds of the first instalment in respect of any Share for which your offer to purchase has been accepted, you will become a party to, and will be bound by, the Instalment Agreement in respect of that Share. Accordingly, from that date you will be entitled to the benefit of rights attached to that Share in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement. Until that date HM Treasury will remain entitled to the benefit of all rights attached to that Share. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement in respect of any Share, the obligation to pay the second and final instalments in respect of that Share, and the obligation to transfer Shares to you, contained in paragraph 8 above, will be replaced by the corresponding obligations in the Instalment Agreement. If, at the date you become a party to the Instalment Agreement, the second or final instalment (or both) has already been paid and has not been paid, you will be obliged to pay that instalment or those instalments in accordance with the terms of the Instalment Agreement as if you were a Purchaser (as defined in the Instalment Agreement) on the due date for that instalment.

SHARE SHOPS

- If you apply for Shares in the UK Public Offer on a Share Shop application form, on a Shareholder Share Shop application form or on an Employee application form on which you have selected a Share Shop, your offer to purchase Shares from HM Treasury shall constitute an offer to each of the Share Shops to enter into an agreement with it on the Terms and Conditions of the Share Dealing Service set out in Part 12.
- Acceptance by HM Treasury (in whole or in part) of your offer under paragraph 5 will also constitute acceptance by each Share Shop of the offer made by you to it pursuant to paragraph 14 so that there will be a binding contract between you and each of the Share Shops if, prior to 8th January, 1992, the condition in paragraph 6 is satisfied.

INCENTIVES

- If you are eligible and your offer to purchase Shares is accepted, you will be entitled to receive any incentive you may have elected to receive in your application. This entitlement is governed by, and you must comply with, the requirements set out, or referred to, in Part 11.

WARRANTIES

- You warrant that—
 - You are not under the age of majority (18 years of age in the UK) on the date of your application.
 - You are not in the United States and you are not, nor are you applying on behalf of, a Canadian person (as defined in Part 11) or an individual, corporation or entity resident in Japan.

- If your application, together with all other applications in the UK Public Offer in which you have an interest or in which any person on whose behalf you are applying has an interest, were accepted in full and, following any agreement by you or any such other person to purchase Shares in the International Tender Offer, taking account of the interests which you or any such other person would have by virtue of such agreement, neither you nor any such person would have an interest (as defined in Article 37 of the Articles of Association of the Company) in shares representing 15 per cent. or more of the share capital of the Company.
- In making your application you are relying only on the Prospectus and not on any other information or representation concerning the Company or the Combined Offers or either of them. You agree that no person responsible for the Prospectus or any part of it will have any liability for any such other information or representation.
- If the laws of any place outside the UK are applicable to your application, you have complied with all such laws and none of the parties mentioned in the Introduction to these terms and conditions will infringe any laws outside the UK as a result of the acceptance of your offer to purchase, any offer by you under paragraph 14, any acceptance of that offer under paragraph 15 or any actions arising from your rights and obligations under these terms and conditions, the Instalment Agreement, the Terms and Conditions of the Share Dealing Service (set out in Part 12) and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.
- If the person signing the application is not the applicant, that person warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant and that, if that person is not an authorized official of a branch of a UK clearing bank or a Selling Agent or Financial Intermediary, this authority is vested in him by virtue of any power of attorney which (or a copy of which certified by a solicitor) accompanies the application and that (unless he is an Authorized Attorney) he is not signing as attorney more than five other applications in the UK Public Offer.
- If the applicant is a corporation, the person signing the application form warrants that he has authority to do so on behalf of the applicant.

SUPPLY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

- HM Treasury and its agents shall have full access to all information relating to, or deriving from, the cheque or draft accompanying your application, and its processing. If HM Treasury or its agents request any further information about your application you must promptly disclose it to them. Upon your becoming a party to the Instalment Agreement your name(s) will be placed on the Interim Rights Register and, if you pay the instalments and do not transfer those rights, subsequently on the Company's register of members. These registers are open to inspection by the public, who may take copies in return for a prescribed fee. The information supplied in, or in connection with, your application may also be disclosed to HM Government departments (and their agents) concerned with other privatisations and to HM Treasury and its agents and members of the police forces for compiling files of, and otherwise taking action in respect of, suspected multiple applicants.

NO MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

- You warrant that the declarations on your application form are true and correct. If they are not, you may be making a multiple application. Any Interim Certificate or returned application monies relating to a person suspected of making a multiple application may be held (without interest) pending investigation.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The rights and remedies of HM Treasury, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Lloyds Bank Plc and the Company under these terms and conditions are in addition to any rights and remedies which would otherwise be available to each of them, and the exercise or partial exercise of one will not prevent the exercise of others.
- All documents and any returned monies will be sent at your risk. They may be sent by post to you at the address shown on the application form. Any cheque will be made payable to you (or the first person named in any joint application).
- You agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company once the Shares you have agreed to purchase have been transferred to you.
- Your application, any acceptance of that application and the contract resulting therefrom will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England. For the exclusive benefit of the parties mentioned in the Introduction to these terms and conditions and each of the Share Shops you irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts in respect of these matters. This does not prevent an action being taken against you in any other jurisdiction.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURN OF THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

BY POST
SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM
TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM
ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 1991 AT

Barclays Bank PLC,
New Issues, PO Box 123, Fleetway House,
25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD
ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME FOR DELIVERY

BY HAND
TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE
3.30 PM ON TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 1991
to any UK branch of NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds,
Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank
OR TAKE THIS FORM BY HAND BEFORE 10.00 AM
ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 1991 TO ANY
OF THE RECEIVING CENTRES LISTED BELOW
(open only for deliveries by hand)

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Aberdeen | Bank of Scotland, 201 Union Street |
| Belfast | Ulster Bank Limited |
| Birmingham | Personal Investments Unit, 88/90 High Street |
| Bristol | Lloyds Bank Plc, 125 Colmore Row |
| Cardiff | National Westminster Bank PLC, 32 Core Street |
| Edinburgh | Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queen Street |
| Glasgow | Bank of Scotland, 64 George Street |
| Guernsey | Bank of Scotland, 110 St. Vincent Street |
| | National Westminster Bank PLC, 35 High Street, St. Peter Port |
| | National Westminster Bank PLC, 1 Prospect Hill, Douglas |
| Isle of Man | Lloyds Bank Plc, 9 Broad Street, St. Helier |
| Jersey | National Westminster Bank PLC, 2 Park Row |
| Leeds | Barclays Bank PLC, 4 Water Street |
| Liverpool | National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, 27 Old Broad Street, EC2 |
| London | Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues, Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, EC4A |
| | Lloyds Bank Plc, Regent's Department, Issue Section, 2nd Floor, Bells House, 80 Cheapside, EC2 |
| Manchester | National Westminster Bank PLC, 55 King Street |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne | Bank of Scotland, 41/51 Grey Street |
| Norwich | Barclays Bank PLC, Bank Plan |
| Nottingham | Lloyds Bank Plc, Old Market Square |
| Plymouth | Barclays Bank PLC, 19 Prince Street |
| Southampton | Lloyds Bank Plc, 19/21 High Street |

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

1 Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use BLOCK CAPITALS).

Applications may not be made by anyone aged under 18, but you may apply as a parent, grandparent or guardian of a child under 18 for the benefit of that child. To do this, you should write your own name and address in Box 1 and put the initials of the child in the designation box. If you make an application for a child in this way, you may also apply separately for your own benefit. Please note that the age of majority in Jersey is 20.

If you are applying for your own benefit, please leave the designation box blank.

If you are applying on behalf of a partnership, firm, trust, association, club or other unincorporated organisation, write your name in Box 1, put the initials of the organisation in the designation box and write the name of the organisation in the first line of the address.

If a corporation is applying, the full name of the corporation should be entered in Box 1.

2 Put in Box 2 (in figures) the number of Shares for which you wish to apply.

You may only apply for one of the numbers of Shares shown in the table below. Applications for any other number of Shares will be rejected.

Number of Shares for which you can apply	Amount you pay now at 110p per Share	Number of Shares for which you can apply	Amount you pay now at 110p per Share
100	£110	800	£880
200	£220	900	£990
300	£330	1,000	£1,100
400	£440	1,500	£1,650
500	£550	2,000	£2,200
600	£660	2,500	£2,750
700	£770	3,000	£3,300

Above 3,000 Shares, applications must be in the following denominations:

Applications for:	in multiples of:
3,000 to 5,000 Shares	1,000 Shares
5,000 to 50,000 Shares	5,000 Shares
50,000 to 100,000 Shares	10,000 Shares
over 100,000 Shares	50,000 Shares

3 Using the table above, put in Box 3 (in figures) the amount you pay now for the Shares applied for in Box 2.

Payment for Shares will be in three instalments. The first instalment of 110p per Share is payable now. The second instalment of 120p per Share is payable by 7th July, 1992 and the final instalment is payable by 2nd March, 1993. The amount of the final instalment will be set shortly after the end of the UK Public Offer as explained in Part 2 of the Prospectus and will appear on

the Internat Certificate. A reminder in respect of each instalment will be sent in plenty of time.

4 Sign and date the form in Box 4. Please read carefully the warning below and the declaration in Box 4 before signing.

WARNING

Only one application may be made in the UK Public Offer for the benefit of any person. Criminal proceedings may be instituted against anyone knowingly making or authorising more than one such application, whether solely or jointly with other persons, or anyone knowingly breaching the terms and conditions of application set out in the Prospectus. Your attention is drawn to Part 11 of the Prospectus and to paragraph 20 of the terms and conditions of application.

If you are applying for the benefit of someone under the age of 18 (under 20 in Jersey), you, rather than that person, must sign the application form.

The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf who is duly authorised to do so. In this case, the original of the relevant power of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed unless the form is signed by a UK Clearing Bank, Selling Agent or Financial Intermediary in which case the signatory must state the capacity in which he or she signs. Except as set out in Part 11 of the Prospectus, no person may apply as attorney in relation to more than six applications in the UK Public Offer.

Applications made by corporations, whether on their own behalf or on behalf of other persons, must be signed by a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

5 Attach your cheque to Box 5 with a pin. It should be for the exact amount you have put in Box 3.

No receipt will be issued.

You may pay for the Shares by personal cheque drawn on your bank or building society account. Alternatively, you may use a cheque or draft from your bank or building society (or a personal cheque drawn by someone else) but then you must write your full name and address on the back.

In each case the cheque must be drawn in sterling and bear a UK bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. It should be payable to "BT Share Offer" and crossed "Not Negotiable".

Any monies returned will be sent by cheque crossed "Not Negotiable A/C Payee Only" payable to the person named in Box 1.

6 You may apply to hold the Shares which you enter in Box 2 jointly with up to three other persons aged 18 or over (20 or over in Jersey). As joint applicants, they should complete and sign in Box 6. Before signing, they should read carefully the warning in Note 4 and the declaration in Box 4.

The form may be signed by an attorney or agent on behalf of the joint applicant(s), as described in Note 4.

You cannot either apply for an incentive or receive preference in allocation by using this form. If you are eligible to apply for an incentive and to receive preference in allocation, you should use your personalised application form.

H M Treasury is a registered data user under the Data Protection Act 1984 and your attention is drawn to paragraph 19 of the terms and conditions of application set out in the Prospectus dated 21st November, 1991.

PHOTOCOPIES OF APPLICATION FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

BT SHARE OFFER

PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

Before completing this form, please read carefully the accompanying guide.

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Title	Forename(s) in full	Designation (if any):	A/c
Surname			
Address			
Postcode			

2 I offer to purchase

BT Shares

3 for which the amount now payable is

£

4 I make this application for BT Shares in the UK Public Offer on and subject to the terms and conditions of application set out in the Prospectus dated 21st November, 1991. I declare that to my knowledge and/or belief this is the only application in the UK Public Offer being made for my benefit (or that of any person for whose benefit I am applying) and that I have read the warning in Note 4 of the accompanying guide.

Date 1991

Signature

5 Attach your cheque here with a pin. It should be for the exact amount in Box 3, payable to "BT Share Offer" and crossed "Not Negotiable". Attach one cheque only.

6 JOINT APPLICANTS

The first applicant should fill in the boxes above. Other persons, applying to hold the Shares jointly with the first applicant, should insert their names in BLOCK CAPITALS and sign in the box below.

I/We join in this application and give the declaration set out in Box 4.

Title	Forename(s) in full	Surname	Signature

Prospect of Polish U-turn on economy alarms West

Disagreement over the future of Warsaw's shock therapy economic policies has made the search for a new prime minister a blundering, month-long affair that is sapping Western confidence in Poland.

It now seems that Poland may make a U-turn in its radical reforms, much to the horror of Western lenders and to the bewilderment of Russia, which is poised to follow Warsaw's Big Bang programme of market change and privatisation.

The Polish elections on October 27 created a splintered parliament with no clear direction. The only point of agreement among the parties appears to be that the policies of Professor Leszek Balcerowicz, finance minister, must be scrapped. Even the defenders of shock therapy admit that important changes have to be introduced, for example, to protect farmers by writing off debts or granting them cheaper credit.

After two years of reform, Poland has thus reached the critical stage of the Thatcher administration when the prime minister had to declare: "The lady is not for turning." Mrs Thatcher, however, had the advantage of an absolute parliamentary majority and, in any case, her shock therapy was far less shocking than that facing Poland.

In two years, unemployment in Poland has risen from zero to more than two million. According to Central Planning Office estimates, it should exceed three million next year.

The first achievements of shock therapy are grudgingly acknowledged by public opinion. Inflation has fallen from almost 700 per cent last year to an anticipated 80 per cent this year. Month-on-month inflation is in low single figures. The domestic market is in rough balance so that, there are only a few queues. Privatisation has continued apace and foreign reserves are increasing.

This, however, is not enough ammunition to fend off the critics. The private sector may be growing but not fast enough to match the rapid slump in the public sector.

The budget deficit is huge, and investment spending has fallen dramatically. Ordinary Poles are feeling the pinch. Budget cuts mean that schools are turning off heating this winter, medicine prices are being increased and hospitals are closing wards. Few building projects are being started because of the tight money pol-

SHOCK TREATMENT FOR POLAND'S ECONOMY



POLAND			
%	1989	1990	1991
Gross domestic product	-0.2	-12	-3.7
Industrial production	-2.5	-28.8	-5.7
Inflation	251	684	80
Unemployment % of workforce	0.3	6.1	7.3

CZECHOSLOVAKIA			
%	1989	1990	1991
Gross domestic product	1.4	-3.1	-9.8
Industrial production	1.0	-3.7	-4.5
Inflation	1.4	15	40
Unemployment % of workforce	0	1.0	2.9

HUNGARY			
%	1989	1990	1991
Gross domestic product	-0.2	-3.5	-6
Industrial production	-1	-10	-12
Inflation	17.5	28.2	36
Unemployment % of workforce	0.5	1.6	2.9

ices, and rents and property prices are soaring. Young farmers are emigrating to the West rather than taking on the heavily indebted farms of their fathers.

The problem is that the dizzying accumulation of tasks - battling down hyper-inflation, privatising state industry, introducing competition, liberalising trade and modernising the banking system - has confused the population, which must cope with shrinking incomes and the scramble to keep jobs.

Poor growth figures are blamed by government spokes-

men. Tight money has forced most of state industry into a position of near-bankruptcy. Nor do the factories have any idea how to revive or reform. Who is going to invest capital in a factory that is incapable of meeting its liabilities, that owes money to the state treasury and banks, and that is unable to keep its best employees? Moreover, the selling point of Poland is that it is a huge under-developed market of 40 million people - larger than Hungary and Czechoslovakia put together. Yet a market where demand is lower by a third than two years ago is not particularly attractive to investors.

A market where demand is lower by a third than two years ago is not particularly attractive to investors

ologists on the collapse of Soviet and Comecon markets, which has indeed crippled Polish heavy industry. The statistics show, however, that this shortfall has been more or less balanced by increased sales to the West. The real reason for the length and depth of the recession is slack domestic demand.

The U-turners - who can be found on both the political right and left - argue that by concentrating on beating inflation, the last two Solidarity governments have made it more difficult to move away from the old

years ago is not particularly attractive to investors.

The more gradualist solutions of Czechoslovakia and Hungary, however, do not really fit the bill - their recession will be more shallow but more protracted. The Russians, advised by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, who kicked off the Polish reforms, are sure that the radical switch to market is the only sensible route for such a large economy.

The question, then, is how to change direction without squandering the undoubted gains of the first two years. The five right-wing Polish

parties that want to form the next government are unable to solve this riddle - talking vaguely of more protection for Polish industry. So President Lech Walesa has decided he would rather delay the quest for a government and wait until a coherent alternative to the Balcerowicz programme emerges.

The alternative economics will set new priorities. The Balcerowicz line was that whatever added to inflation was bad, whatever reinforced forced fiscal constraint was good.

The new line being puzzled out runs as follows: whatever encourages competitive production is critical: everything else (convertible currency, European Community association, even privatisation) is secondary. The disagreement between the U-turners hinges on how far the state should contribute to this shift in priority. Should the state, for example, subsidise interest rates on investment credits?

Professor Balcerowicz gives warning, however, that a return to high inflation is just around the corner. He is resigned to leaving government, but has promised that he will fight his corner - perhaps as head of the national bank - to keep money supply under control.

ROGER BOYES
Warsaw

Accord is 'crucial' for Bond

FROM REUTER IN PERTH

BOND Corporation's survival depends largely on whether agreement is reached over legal action and asset sales with Australian Consolidated Investments, its former subsidiary, according to Peter Lucas, Bond's chairman.

He told the annual meeting that although Consolidated had agreed to support Bond's scheme of arrangement, the two companies were involved in legal action over Consolidated's acquisition of Bond shares in The Nine Network Australia.

Ian Ferrier, the scheme administrator, said the company might be able by March to apply for trading in its shares to resume. The shares have been suspended since December 1989.

Total assets were down to Aus\$525 million (£231 million) at the company's June 30 balance date, from Aus\$2.2 billion in October 1990. Liabilities had been cut by Aus\$1 billion to Aus\$2.4 billion. Cash flow was sufficient to cover expenses.

In September, Bond Corporation, once the flagship of Alan Bond, the fallen entrepreneur, reported a loss of Aus\$42.49 million for the nine months to June 30.

Dutch take hard line on inflation

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WIM Duisenberg, president of the Dutch central bank, has thrown his weight behind the advocates of keeping Europe's monetary reins tight, despite the economic slowdown in key economies and lower interest rates elsewhere.

His demand that bringing down inflation must be top priority came after a week of comments from European ministers, including Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, that suggested there was no need for the Bundesbank to raise key lending rates and that there could even be scope for easing soon. Provisional data on Thursday, however, showed annual consumer price inflation in western Germany rising to 4.1 per cent from 3.5 per cent in October.

Mr Duisenberg gave a warning that failure to bring down German inflation would be "contagious". He said reversing the upward trend in inflation in Germany and other core members of the European monetary system was the top priority, as inflation at present levels of between 3.5 and 4 per cent was "unacceptable" and provided "no basis for monetary union". Budget deficits also



Mölemann: warning had to be reduced to ensure the smooth integration of the European economies, he said.

He specifically named Germany, whose deficits have ballooned under the impact of unification, Spain, Italy and The Netherlands as countries whose deficits needed particular attention.

He said Germany's budget deficit had been a root cause of inflationary pressure requiring tight monetary policy, which had caused problems for other countries and tension in the EMS. It was therefore "essential" to bring down German inflation through tight monetary policy and a reduction in the German deficit, he said.

FAI stays confident after loss

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

FAI Insurance expects "a significant recovery" in its performance in the current year, Rodney Adler, the managing director, told the annual meeting. Mr Adler did not say whether FAI would return to profit this year after a net loss of Aus\$14.4 million (£6.3 million) in the year to end-June, but he told reporters: "We hope to return to profitability in fiscal 1993."

The loss, which compared with a profit of Aus\$18.24 million a year earlier, included an underwriting loss of Aus\$191 million. John Landerer, the chairman, told the meeting results so far this year were in line with company forecasts. Mr Landerer said the result was not acceptable but that FAI had acted to substantially reduce the underwriting loss.

Changes to the underwriting strategy and the management structure appeared to be working, he said. He said the company planned to sell down its property portfolio as soon as market conditions improved.

FAI shares, as low as 49 cents this year, closed 1 cent higher at 67 cents.

Cluff issues to boost Ghanaian pit

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CLUFF Resources, the gold mining and exploration company, is raising £8.3 million via an 11-for-20 rights issue at 34p, in part to develop the group's mining interests in Ghana. The shares fell 5p to 42p on the news.

The group is forecasting pre-tax profits for the year to end-December of not less than £2.3 million and consolidated profits after tax and minority interests of not less than £750,000. The final div-

idend to be recommended will be 1p, making a total of 1p for the year, the same as last year.

The group also announced plans to sell its oil and gas interests, which include businesses in France, America and Canada and joint ventures in China, The Netherlands and Oman. The group's oil and gas interests are in the books at £11.6 million, a valuation dependent on the outcome of future exploration and development. Any shortfall in the

value will result in an extraordinary charge.

The group said £6 million of the money would be used to develop the Ayanfuri mine, an open pit gold mining operation in Ghana, and the rest will provide the group with the working capital flexibility necessary to finance its current exploration programme.

The Hutchinson Group, which owns 24.6 per cent of Cluff, has undertaken to take up its entire provisional entitlement under the rights issue. The remaining 19.4

million shares have been underwritten by Kleinwort Benson. The issue is subject to shareholder approval at an extraordinary general meeting on December 23.

The group says it plans to develop Cluff as a significant British-based gold producer, building on knowledge and experience gained particularly in Zimbabwe where the group established the Royal Family mine in 1984 and the Freda Rebecca mine, the country's largest single gold mining operation, in 1988.

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Levinson

Checking out cheque frauds

Millions of cheques are made out and posted every day, without a second thought. Most reach their destination. But some never reach the recipient because they have been stolen and paid into someone else's account. All the thief needs to do is endorse the back of the cheque with a scribble, which could be the recipient's signature. Banks have no legal duty to examine the signature on the back of the cheque and no legal liability.

Those who read this with horror do so rightly. Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, in his annual report this week, renewed his call for a tightening up of the wording on cheques to help prevent fraud. He said in last year's report that he hoped the government would bring in legislation to make cheques non-transferable. He had hoped that a form of bank payment order should be introduced that would be non-transferable, with the proceeds collected by bank solely for the account of the named payee. A watered down alternative

was to give legal force to the words "account payee" that would make cheques non-transferable. Nothing has been done.

Next week, more than a year after those comments, the Consumers' Association will finally succeed in introducing a private member's bill. This would give legal force to the words "account payee" or "account payee only" on cheques. Banks, which accept cheques fraudulently endorsed on the back, will be liable.

This would be an important and welcome change. In the meantime, the banking ombudsman and the CA are continuing to advise people that they should send cheques through the post made out to "John Bull only" rather than just "John Bull". They should delete the words "or order" and initial the deletion, then write the words "not transferable" between the two vertical lines on



COMMENT

SARA MCCONNELL

the cheque. Banks continue to reject Mr Shurman's arguments, saying that cheques would no longer be negotiable instruments. But, as Mr Shurman says, this is the very result most customers wish to achieve. They do not want the long-awaited cheque for the tax rebate to be a negotiable instrument: they want it to arrive safely on the doostep and pay it into their account.

The Inland Revenue has become an important ally in the fight against cheque fraud, advising taxpayers to mark cheques to prevent them being

cashed by someone with no right to the money. The Revenue has a particular reason to know that cheque fraud is a big problem. Cheques with a face value of £7.6 million, on their way to the Revenue, were stolen by casual Post Office sorting workers and nearly £2 million of this was cashed or paid into bank accounts fraudulently.

Banks picked up most of the tab for this, admitting they had not made the requisite checks. But waiting for fraud to happen, then paying out is a ridiculously expensive method of fraud

prevention. Customers should now be offered the option of books of non-negotiable cheques. The large clearing banks need to follow the example of Save & Prosper, which has issued cheque books carrying the words "only" rather than "or order". If the CA's bill becomes law, cheque books should be offered with the words "account payee," unless customers choose otherwise. Until the bill becomes law, customers will have to protect themselves.

Saving graces

National & Provincial is planning to pay out £15 million in extra interest, after encouraging savers to change to higher paying accounts. This is money well spent. The society reckons that 25 per cent of its savers are in accounts that have

been closed and which pay very small rates of interest. It intends to spend the next few months encouraging them to move into accounts paying better rates. A free helpline has been set up and a press advertising campaign, to make people aware that they could be losing out, started this week. Those calling the helpline will be sent a self-assessment form to analyse what they want out of a building society account.

What most people want, as N&P has realised, is to get as much interest as possible on their money. Savers who still have £500 in the redundant, ordinary share account, which pays a measly 2.62 per cent net, 3.5 per cent gross could earn as much as 6.75 per cent net, 9 per cent gross in an instant reserve account. Those with money in the ordinary share account or in the instant access account, also closed to new savers, should pay particular attention to the campaign.

Savers should take the opportunity they are being offered and make their money work for them.

Advisers prepare their clients for a tougher tax regime after a change of government

Setting out Labour's financial wares

BY SARA MCCONNELL AND LIZ DOLAN

BY THIS time next year, Britain may be run by a Labour government for the first time since 1979. The latest opinion poll yesterday, by NOP for *The Independent*, showed Labour leading the Tories by one point.

Last month's MORI poll for the *Sunday Times* put Labour six points ahead of the Conservatives. This month's poll will appear in tomorrow's *Sunday Times*. The Labour party has been issuing a series of policy state-

ments outlining its proposals on taxation, pensions, privatisation and home ownership over the past year. In its latest policy document, *Opportunity Britain*, it proposes "a fundamental reform of the tax system" including national insurance contributions.

It also intends reviving the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (Serps) and increasing employee participation in company pensions. Those threatened with repossession of their homes will be able to apply to a public mortgage rescue scheme.

Proposals to renationalise privatised industries have been diluted, but Labour is committed to taking back control of water and the national electricity grid. Labour has made no secret that it wants the highest-paid sector of the population to pay more tax and national insurance. The present system of inheritance tax is also a target for change.

Financial advisers are telling their clients to reorganise their financial affairs now to take account of a possible Labour administration.



NICK MALAND

HOME OWNERSHIP

PLANS for a mortgage rescue scheme for homeowners threatened with repossession were aired again this week in an opposition debate on housing.

A key element of such a scheme would be a central government subsidy, which could initially be £100 million. Labour has not yet decided where this money will come from.

A spokeswoman for Clive Selby, the shadow housing minister, said: "People whose homes are repossessed should not be evicted because this only means that they end up in local authority homes."

Families in serious financial difficulty would have their homes bought by a housing association with help from central government and would stay on as tenants.

Others could own part of their home while a housing association bought the rest. In other cases, where people needed time to pay, the building society would take possession of the house but let the

former owners stay on as tenants.

Lenders are cautious about this plan until it has been costed out in much more detail.

They are also waiting for more information on Labour's proposal in "Meet the Challenge, Make the Change", that tax relief on mortgage interest will be brought forward to help homeowners in the early years. This relief is administered by lenders.

Gary Marsh, head of research at the Halifax, the largest building society, said: "We haven't yet seen any firm methodology and the administration needs to be kept simple otherwise it will cost more than it is worth."

He estimated that bringing forward some of this relief would not make much difference to the housing market overall because although it would bring down the costs marginally in the early years, it would catch up with people later on.

TAXATION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

THE top rate of tax on earnings under a Labour government will be 50 per cent instead of the present 40 per cent, and there will also be a tax band lower than the present 25 per cent, yet to be set. The levels of income at which the bands will apply will be set by a Labour chancellor in his or her first Budget, but changes are likely to be phased in gradually.

However, all income would also be subject to national insurance contributions of a further 9 per cent. At the moment, employees have to pay contributions on only the first £390 a week on £20,280 a year of their earnings. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has calculated that abolishing

this upper earnings limit would add £64.80 to the annual tax bill of someone earning £21,000 a year. On a £30,000 salary the extra would be £874.80; on £40,000 it would be £1,774.80; and on £60,000, £3,574.80.

The changes will affect just over 12 per cent of full-time employees who earn more than £390 a week, the Institute said. Around 4 per cent earn more than £30,000 a year and "considerably less than 2 per cent earn more than £40,000".

Paul Johnson, research officer at the Institute said, however, that making everyone pay National Insurance contributions was "an ex-

remely sensible thing to do because it seems ridiculous that higher paid people are paying lower marginal rates of tax."

Labour is also proposing to impose a 9 per cent surcharge on unearned income so that it is treated the same as earned income. There will be an exemption of £3,000 for private investors and a higher exemption of £5,000 for pensioners.

Margaret Beckett, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said this would apply to any investment income which is already taxed, including share dividends, income from unit trusts and investment trusts and income from building society accounts.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

MARGARET Beckett, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, denied this week that Labour had decided what changes, if any, it would make to the level of capital gains tax exemption - at present £5,500 per individual.

The level was something to be discussed, she said, and emphasised that there was no truth in reports that the party had already fixed on an exemption of £1,000.

However, in its policy document, "Meet the Challenge, Make the Change", Labour says: "Those who receive capi-

tal gains have an extraordinary and quite unjustified privilege in our tax system in that they pay no tax at all on the first £5,000 of their capital gains. For a married couple this can mean joint privilege of up to £10,000 each year. This is unfair in light of the much smaller personal allowance which can be set against income."

Capital gains will be taxed in the same way as income, Labour says, although it has not yet decided whether to impose a 9 per cent national insurance surcharge as with income.

PEPS

THE tax breaks on personal equity plans (Peps) are likely to be abolished by a Labour government which wants to get rid of such relief, particularly for higher-rate taxpayers.

Labour has said that it will stop sales of new Peps although plans already in force will not lose their tax relief. At the moment, both income and capital gains from Peps are free of tax.

Marjorie Mowlam, the Labour party's City spokeswoman, said: "We would obviously let Pep holders continue with their policies but we would not continue the tax relief to Peps, so that would be one change we would make."

If there is a general election on April 9, considered by some to be the most likely date, investors who want to take out Peps at the beginning of the next financial year on April 6 should be ready to put in the maximum allowed. They should also use up their maximum allowances for this year until next April.

From January 1, planholders will be allowed to invest another £3,000 in a single-company Pep as well as £6,000 in an ordinary Pep. These limits could be raised if there is a Conservative budget before the election. Investors may take out only one of each sort of plan a year.

PRIVATISATIONS

NOW that the flotation of BT looks certain to go ahead, Labour has serious plans for just two renationalisation projects. One is the National Grid, owned by the 12 regional electricity boards. The other is a long-term plan to buy back the water boards.

The party has not specified exactly how it intends to finance the acquisition of the National Grid. But Geoff Mulgan, senior research assistant to Gordon Brown, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said: "There will be no need for cash. We will make use of the complex web of debts and stakes in other generating companies. There will be no increase in the PSBR."

Buying back the water companies was much more a long-term project, he said. It would not happen until regional governments had been set up in England, because they would be responsible for the newly renationalised

boards. "I can't say how we will do it. The uncertainties that exist here would make it foolish of me to be more specific."

Steve Doe, an analyst at Smith New Court, the securities house, said: "Water shares are definitely reflecting concern about the political situation, specifically, I suspect, the outcome of the next election. They have underperformed during most of 1991 despite recent nerves about the general economy."

However, Mr Doe said, many of the privatised stocks were also nervous ahead of the government's Utilities Bill, which should result in a general tightening of regulations.

Mr Doe doubts that Labour will be much tougher than the Conservatives in this area. Labour disagrees. It accuses the Tories of doing too little too late, and promises it will allow ombudsmen to impose fines.

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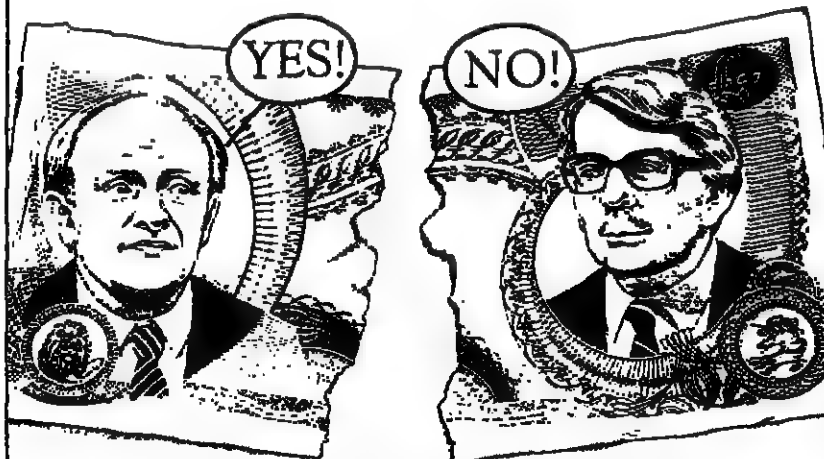
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THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Broker brands back in play

Rupert Bruce recommends caution when investing in funds marketed and run by supposedly impartial advisers



switch into cash at pre-crash prices.

City regulators rightly became concerned that broker fund managers were getting preferential treatment which damaged the interests of other policyholders. They also could not see why brokers should get an extra fee for their services.

Dealing with the benefit of hindsight was abolished two years ago by the department of trade and industry. The Securities and Investments Board thought of abolishing the whole broker fund business - with as much as £3 billion under management - but was dissuaded.

Instead, the regulators introduced new rules on Octo-

ber 1 which force a broker to tell investors what he stands to gain and to provide an easily comparable investment performance guide. Richard Cockcroft, director of practice at Fimbra, said: "Proper disclosure cures most things."

Brokers have to tell prospective investors that there is a conflict of interest between their roles as adviser and fund manager in a written statement. They must also reveal the price of their investment management advice. And they have to register with Fimbra at a cost of £500.

The upshot of these rules - and probably one of their aims - is that many small broker fund advisers have been driven from the busi-

ness. Mr Cockcroft reports that only 311 of the 580 broker fund advisers he invited to register have done so. But the bigger brokers who have survived the shake out are preparing to set up new funds. Steven Whalley, assistant manager of investment marketing at the life insurance company, Clerical Medical Investment Group, said: "It is almost as if there is latent demand." He has been approached by eight brokers who want to set up new life company broker funds.

Some of the old complaints persist. One life company director who did not want to be named said: "Life companies are just buying business from these brokers. It is a sad

reflection on our industry." He said that life companies were giving brokers an annual management fee for investment advice. That is on top of the life companies' standard fee, and there is no evidence that the performance of the funds justifies the extra charge.

The average broker fund tracked by Micropal has grown by about 8 per cent over the last year and 12 per cent over the last three. But the average life fund had climbed by about 12 per cent in one year and 16 per cent in three.

The lacklustre performance may be due to the abolition of pricing with hindsight, which many brokers relied on to boost performance. David Warnock, investment director of Cheshire broker Bankhall Investment Management, said: "There are no special conditions now. It is down to pure investment management and it is time to get the men from the boys." Bankhall devotes reasonable resources to its broker funds, which are simply vehicles for switching between insurance company funds. But it also relies on free switching between life company funds. The department of trade allows this, providing there is no "disadvantage" to normal policyholders in the life insurance fund. But in practice it is very difficult to prove whether shares are being bought and sold purely to keep broker fund managers happy.

In contrast to broker funds, broker unit trusts are rarely more expensive than normal unit trusts. At least five of these will be launched before the year end under the wing of Aegis Unit Trust Managers. Before buying one, investors should check how much experience the investment manager has.

BRIEFINGS

Fewer than half of the under-16s who save with the Halifax Building Society are thought to have registered to receive tax-free savings. This assumption is based on the findings of the latest annual survey of 3,000 12 to 16-year-olds, published by the society this week, which closely mirrors the results of an earlier survey of under-12s. The discovery has prompted the Halifax to write for the second time this year to the parents of its 1.5 million junior savers, pointing out the importance of registering. Failure to do so means waiting until next year for a tax rebate, which has to be applied for separately.

The survey also discovered a big drop in the number of 16-year-olds saving for cars. The proportion has fallen from 40 per cent to 22 per cent over the past year.

Leeds Permanent is now offering a mortgage whose rate has been capped at 9.95 per cent for one year. This means that borrowers can still take advantage of a lower rate if the Leeds variable rate falls below 9.95 per cent during the period. An arrangement fee of £50 does not apply to first-time buyers. Sun Life of Canada Home Loans is offering staged discounts on mortgage interest repayments during the initial 15 months of a loan. Borrowers pay 1.15 per cent less for the first five months, falling to 0.5 per cent during the next five and then to 0.25 per cent for the rest of the period.

A new instant access postal account is now available from Norwich and Peterborough Building Society. The minimum initial investment is £1,000, and savers are guaranteed a net interest rate of 8.475 per cent until May 1 1992. Norwich and Peterborough warns that the account, Postmaster, is a limited issue account which will be closed to new savers after a certain period.

Pearl Assurance has launched a package for elderly people planning to go into a nursing home. The package includes an investment plan designed to generate sufficient funds to pay nursing home fees, plus a free booklet, "Choosing a Nursing

Home", which is intended to give independent advice on how to choose a suitable home from the 8,000 currently available in Britain. The investment package combines an annuity to pay the fees with a with-profits investment bond intended to rebuild the underlying capital sum over ten years.

A primary school educational project pack for children between seven and eleven has been devised by Nationwide Anglia. "All About Money" looks at the history of money and introduces some basic ideas about cash management. Written by teachers, the project contains eight work cards, which take the story of money through the ages, from barter to computerised money transfers.

Fixed-rate loans caught short

By SARA MCCONNELL

SOME building societies are withdrawing five-year fixed-rate mortgages just days after they are first offered because they cannot afford the higher rates of the past two weeks in the money markets.

Borrowers who did not move quickly enough to sign up for the loans face paying a higher rate. In some cases societies are not offering five-year fixed rates any more and have money only for shorter fixed-rate terms.

Societies normally borrow a fixed tranche of money in the wholesale markets at a certain rate for fixed-rate mortgages. Uncertainty over interest rates and sterling in has made borrowing in the

money markets more expensive and when the original tranche is used up, the next one has cost more.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester building society said this week that it was withdrawing its 10.65 per cent five-year fixed-rate loan just seven days after it was launched. It is being replaced with another five-year mortgage at 10.95 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 12 per cent).

Borrowers who have already signed up for the 10.65 per cent rate are being mailed this weekend to see if they are still interested. If so, they are eligible for the lower rate. But anyone applying from now

will get the higher rate. The C&G said: "We did a limited tranche: on 10.65 per cent which was hedged at the beginning. This has now been fully allocated but rates have moved upwards: the cost of money is going up and we can't afford to offer the lower rates."

The Halifax, the largest society, has also withdrawn its five-year fixed-rate offer of 10.7 per cent until January 1992, because "funds are exhausted".

The society still has a 10.5 per cent fixed rate until July 31 1994.

The Skipton last week withdrew its fixed rate of 10.45 per cent for three or five years.

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The narrow routes for those investors who seek redress

By Liz Dolan
and Jill Insley

INVESTORS who lose money or run into problems with a financial institution may find that obtaining redress is not as easy as they think.

The regulators and ombudsmen who have sprung up to protect investors have clearly defined areas of responsibility and to make the best use of the system, investors need to understand its structure. Regulators will not generally look into any case until it has reached deadlock.

People who think they cannot go any further with their bank should contact Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, who deals with complaints about all services provided by member banks and their insurance subsidiaries. In his report for the year to end September, published this week, Mr Shurman said that only 746 of the 6,327 complaints received during the year were put forward for full investigation. More than a quarter were outside his terms of reference, and a further 813 were rejected because there was no breach of duty, loss or inconvenience.

Mr Shurman said the 62 per cent increase in complaints last year was largely due to growing consumer awareness. Other factors were the recession and mechanisation.

Christopher Eadie, the dep-

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Final recourse: Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, who had harsh words for banks this week

uty banking ombudsman, says the complainant must take his problem to the bank, and only when that bank has decided it cannot reconcile the situation will it issue a 'deadlock' letter saying no more can be done.

The complainant can then return to the ombudsman who screens the complaint to see if it can be taken on. It could not, for example, handle complaints about the setting of interest rates, but could deal with the incorrect charging of interest, negligence, and problems with cash dispensers.

The ombudsman will make an initial assessment or provisional formal recommendation. After submissions by both parties, and if the complainant wishes to proceed, the ombudsman will make a final formal recommendation. He can award up to £100,000 against the bank.

Mr Eadie says most banks, including all the high street banks are members of the scheme. Complaints may take months rather than weeks to process, he says.

Last year, 3,915 complaints were made, although 1,000 were outside the ombudsman's terms of reference. Mr Eadie says the

number of complaints made this year is substantially higher. The ombudsman's decision is binding on the bank, but the complainant can continue to take legal action.

Complaints about building societies should be directed to the Building Societies Ombudsman, who will deal with complaints about all services except property surveys, lending decisions or offered by the Societies. But it will not cover complaints resulting from decisions not to forward a service, surveys of properties, and problems resulting in legal action against a society member. Again the ombudsman will not consider complaints until a building society member has reached deadlock with the society.

The ombudsman can make awards of up to £100,000. The bureau received 4,500 inquiries last year - 80 per cent of which did not proceed. The insurance ombudsman covers problems with both life and general insurance. The bureau will ask investors to write to the chief executive of their insurance company.

Elizabeth Bingham, assistant manager, inquiries and applications, says about 60 per cent of complaints are solved or dropped at this stage. The rest go forward to legal assistants for a preliminary investigation. The legal assistants will write a provisional view - or it will go on to Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, for a final decision.

He makes awards of up to £100,000, or £10,000 per annum in the case of permanent health insurance. The decision is binding on the insurance company, but the policy holder can take the complaint to court if dissatisfied with the outcome.

As well as ombudsmen with power to investigate and fine, investors can also approach one of the regulatory watch-

dogs set up under the Financial Services Act. They can suspend or fine members but again they try to get to the bottom of this problem without going this far.

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) regulates the 7,000 independent financial advisers which provide advice on life insurance, pensions, and unit trusts. The first step is to arrange a meeting between the complainant and financial adviser. If this is unsuccessful, the complaint will be referred to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, which can make awards of up to £50,000.

Complaints about the administration and investment management for unit trusts and personal equity plans should be directed to the investment managers regulatory organisation (Imro). If the complaint concerns loss of money, Imro may suggest the investor takes the issue up with Richard Youard, the investment referee.

He can make awards of up to £100,000 against the Imro member, but the complainant is obliged not to proceed in any further action.

The Life Assurance & Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) helps with complaints about the sale of investments and insurance by life officers and unit trust companies and their salesmen - officially called company representatives and tied agents. The regulator can only deal with problems which have arisen concerning business written after implementation of the Financial Services Act on April 29, 1988.

Lautro will judge whether the complaint involves a rule breach, in which case it may investigate the problem itself.

Otherwise the complaint will be passed to the insurance ombudsman.

An investigation taken on by Lautro will initially go to the monitoring committee. If the complaint is considered valid, it will proceed to a disciplinary committee, where the parties concerned will be legally represented.

If the disciplinary committee finds the complaint is valid, it can publish a reprimand, make a fine, or award compensation. The investors' compensation scheme is a safety net that protects investors when a firm goes into liquidation owing them money. One source of delay is lack of documentation - companies which fail often have poor or misleading records making it difficult to assess their liabilities. Investors can only claim for compensation when their investment company had full authorisation from an SRO, RPD, or SIB. Provisionally authorised firms are not covered.

Claims are only possible for business transacted after December 18, 1986. No matter how much investors have lost the ICS will not be able to repay more than £48,000.

Comment, page 25

Christmas joy for card thieves

By Sara McConnell

CARDHOLDERS are making life too easy for thieves and fraudsters, particularly over Christmas when fraud is expected to increase by about 10 per cent, according to a report this week by Barclays.

The bank, which issues a third of all plastic cards, forecasts that 2,000 Barclays cards and Connect cards will go missing every day in the run-up to Christmas. Two-thirds of frauds are accounted for by cards being lost and stolen. However, the report revealed that almost half of customers who report their cards missing do not know when they were lost or stolen, while 40 per cent do not know where or how their card went missing. Of those who can pinpoint when and where, 27 per cent fail to report it within 48 hours, giving a thief more time to spend money on the card.

Under the Consumer Credit Act, cardholders are technically liable for all purchases on a credit card until it has been reported lost or stolen, but Barclays said it usually waived this requirement and charged a nominal £25.

Barry Fergus, Barclays' director of fraud control, said: "We are very concerned to find that so many customers do not keep a closer hold on the whereabouts of their plastic cards and delay telling us when one has gone missing."

Barclays tells customers not to leave wallets or handbags unattended or visible in the car. They should cut up old cards as soon as they expire, sign new cards immediately and keep cheque books

and guarantee cards separate. Carbon copies of sales vouchers should be kept in a safe place or destroyed.

Other banks echo Barclays' plea to customers to take care of their cards. Lloyds said it was "tight lipped" about the scale of card fraud on its Access and Visa debit cards but said its figures were probably similar to those of other banks.

A total of £122 million was lost through card fraud last year, according to the Association for Payment Clearing Services. The association has started its annual campaign to educate retailers and is planning to expand this next year to the public. Banks announced last month that they will be spending a total of £500 million over the next three years on plastic fraud prevention measures.

THE PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT

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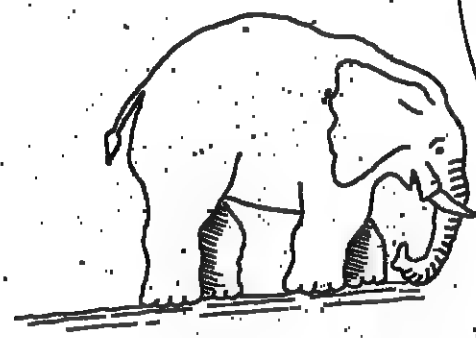
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Warrington v Warrington (8.15) Second division: Rochdale v Chester (5.00), Warrington v Carlisle (5.00), Third di-

Northampton 76ers v London Central YMCA Second division: Sunderland v Milton Keynes Q. Colts.

Championships (Queen's Club London) SNOOKER: UK championship (Guld Hall Preston)

arguments over whether its results should count towards grand prix scoring because there were insuffi-

world championships in Boston next March. The prize money is the same at \$94,000.

by Gary Staines, who has promised his services to Britain for the world championships, and Andrea Wallace.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your return for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won the prize or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

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Please take into account any minor signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by John Simpson, of Weldon, in Northamptonshire.

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Losses continue

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 25. Dealings end December 9. Settlement day December 16. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Portfolio

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RUGBY UNION

Bath's grievance may rebound on Nottingham

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOTTINGHAM have not had a wonderful start to their league season so when it comes to the Pilkington Cup, they could probably have done without any extra motivation going their opponents' way. After all, today's third-round cup task was difficult enough — a visit to Bath Recreation Ground in England without its problems — but now they must face a team most unhappy at the loss of a league point.

"We would have been screaming anyway," Andy Robinson, the Bath captain, said yesterday. "We lost at this stage of the cup last year. We annihilated Leicester in the league one weekend, then the next they came to us in the cup and really gave us a lesson. And we remember playing Nottingham in the league two years ago when they rested their internationals and still beat us."

"We won't be taking this one lightly, whatever Nottingham's results have been like. The loss of a league point is just an additional factor. It's so frustrating when you work hard to get the approach right on the field then mistakes like this happen off the field."

Bath have yet to decide whether they will appeal against the decision of the Senior Clubs Association (SCA) to deduct a league point for fielding Laurie Heatherley against London

Irish earlier this month, when he was not properly registered. It was a technical point but if the SCA had felt inclined to overlook it, critics could so easily point the finger and accuse them of letting a big club off the hook.

Danny Bourne will know he has been in a match, at all events. Bourne, an England colt when he was with Lichfield last season, plays in Nottingham's back row instead of the injured Gary Rees on the day when Jeremy Guscott returns to Bath's ranks for the first time this season, refreshed from a break after the World Cup. In the continued absence of the recuperating David Egerton and John Hall, it is the strongest side Bath have fielded this season.

At the other end of the cup scale, however, there appears little scope for the cup minnows ambitious to appear in Tuesday's fourth-round draw. You would not, for example, get wonderful odds on High Wycombe at Wasps or Ruislip at Newcastle Gosforth, but neither senior club will take anything for granted.

Kevin Titchcombe will take his High Wycombe team back to the ground where he spent eight seasons as a Wasp. "Realistically we only have a slim chance of winning but we would not be doing ourselves justice if we didn't make the most of that chance," he said.

"The game with Wasps is a reward for victories over Redruth and Askeans and we will concentrate hard on our game, which has brought pleasing wins in the league against Weston and Basingstoke."

More eyes than those of their own supporters will be on Nick Beal, the stand-off half from RGS High Wycombe, whose maturity and kicking have both impressed. He will play against Wasps' third-choice stand-off, Rob Llewellyn, providing cover for the absent Andrew and the injured Davies.

Ruislip contend that they are going north for "more than a half of Newcastle Brown", according to Mike Searls, their secretary. Three years ago, Ruislip, on a ground thick with mud, held Gosforth to 13-10 in the cup but their players are looking forward to the smart surroundings of Newcastle Gosforth's Kingston Park ground.

Steve Donnelly's move from centre to cover at stand-off for the injured Richard Barnes leaves room on the wing for Barnes's brother, Trevor. Ruislip include Rick Wadmore and Kevin Price, who played with Middlesex during the county championship last month and, whatever the result, the visitors will have a memorable weekend.

Tynedale's five survivors head south for a day out

By DAVID HANDS

LOOKING south is a comparatively rare experience for Tynedale — certainly as far south as London — but the third round of the Pilkington Cup will bring them to the capital today to play London Scottish. Since the Scots stand bracketed at the head of the national second division and Tynedale are in northern division one of the Courage Clubs Championship, the outcome should be straightforward.

But the Exiles are the last club to take their visitors for granted, on three counts: Tynedale managed to dispose of a second-division club, Wakefield, in the second round, albeit at home; they have lost to no one this season; and four seasons ago, they beat Scottish 11-9 in the cup.

In addition, they are accustomed to honing their skills on Scotch opponents: they believe they are the only English club to play Watsonians and Heriot's, as well as the leading Border clubs. Their victims this season include Hawick, and Heriot's are the only side this season to spoil their record, with a 13-13 draw.

To their chagrin, however, Tynedale will be without Ian Donkin, the scrum half whose late try permitted the conversion that won the match against Wakefield earlier this month. Donkin

ruptured a muscle just above his knee during the league defeat of Bradford and Bingley last weekend and the second-choice scrum half, Simon Clayton-Hibbott, has yet to return from New Zealand, where four of Tynedale's players spent the off-season.

This restores Gary Ruthford to the side but he, at least, knows all about tense cup ties: he is one of five survivors from the 1987-8 team which went to Coventry and lost 7-6 in the third round. Three of the five are in the pack, whose four-square strength will pose considerable problems for the Scottish, while Tynedale also have a significant presence at stand-off half in Jamie Paton.

Paton joined the club from Edinburgh Academical, having played for Scottish Schools, and will find himself opposed by Richard Cramb, the former international who now leads London Scottish.

In support, Paton has the burgeoning skills of John Fletcher, an England under-21 squad centre, who has attracted the attention of first-division clubs and who, like so many of the Tynedale players, had made his way from the ranks of their own colts teams.

"We enjoy the cup and we hope to take as many as 200 supporters to London Scottish," John Shotton, the Tynedale spokesman, said. "But as far as we are concerned, it is the icing on the cake. We had hoped to be two leagues higher but we can't get out of our present division, it's such a cut-throat affair. Oley are the classic example of a side who, once they emerged from north one, immediately went up two divisions."

Should they succeed today, it will be in the absence of David Thornton, their coach, who is away on business in Japan. But Tynedale have not been short of help in his absence, including that of Peter Robinson, once of Hawick, who is the sort of president every club would love: not only can he referee, he can coach too.



Cramb: opposes Paton

Pears stays at full back for first defence

HARLEQUINS, holders of the Pilkington Cup, make their first defence today, against Bedford at Goldington Road, with a XV now unchanged in three successive games. Pears remains at full back and Bray at stand-off half (David Hands writes).

Manu, Rugby's Tongan-born No. 8, is eligible for competitive matches and plays against Gloucester, while another No. 8, Richards, has recovered from illness and plays for Leicester at Fyde, whose scrum half, Wright, is doubtful. London Irish, already without George Egan for the game at Thurrock, lost Halpin and Clancy, their international props, through injury. Oxford and Cambridge universities play their last matches today before the announcement on Monday of their XVs for the annual game at Twickenham on December 10: Henderson returns to Oxford's wing against Bristol University but Lloyd Davies, the Cambridge centre, has a suspected broken wrist and will miss the game against Sheffield.

Cardiff are aiming to find their best form

By GERALD DAVIES

AFTER last weekend's terrific encounter between Neath and Llanelli, a match entirely worthy of clubs leading the Heineken League first division, it would be natural to follow their progress this week.

Instead, the spotlight falls, perversely, on the bottom of the division, where Cardiff are languishing without a point after three matches. It is not where you expect them, of all clubs, to be. Today, they entertain, if that is the right word, Pontypridd, their near-neighbours from further up the Taff Valley.

"We are not playing anywhere near our true potential," John Nelson, the Cardiff secretary, said. "There have been distractions, but we need to forget the problems we've had off the field in the last few weeks, and simply concentrate on playing rugby."

Cardiff will begin as the more nervous team as they attempt to halt their run of defeat, but they have Arthur Emyr back on the wing after damaging a rib cartilage in

Wales' match against Australia.

Llanelli, who may have lost the flanker, Mark Pereg, for the rest of the season with a broken bone in his back, travel to Newport, who have Paul Turner, their player-coach, back in harness with the scrum half, David Llewellyn.

Neath's visit to Newbridge sees the introduction of a new pair of youngsters at half back, Robert Jones's younger brother, Rhodri, is at scrum half, and Matthew McCarthy outside him. Both, at 20 years of age, are making their first league appearances.

At the Wales coach, Alan Davies, and team manager, Robert Norster, have set up a new line of communication with the club coaches in the Heineken League first division to improve their information on players. The Neath team manager, Glen Ball, will co-ordinate West Wales, the Maesteg coach, Leighton Davies, will be responsible for Mid and South Glamorgan and the Pontypridd coach, John Perkins, will oversee Gwent.



Arabian Sultan, left, leading Sweet Duke on his way to an impressive victory at Sandown yesterday

Dancing Brave departs in style

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DANCING Brave, who leaves Britain tomorrow for stud duties in Japan, provided his new Far East owners with an unexpected bonus yesterday by becoming the sire of a National Hunt winner.

None So Brave is the first of Dancing Brave's offspring to have lined up over timber and Reg Akehurst's charge made a winning first appearance in the Surrey Racing Three-Year-Old Novices' Hurdle at Sandown.

The son of the 1986 Horse of the Year, bought from John Oxx for 8,000 guineas at the October Sales, could turn out to be above average as he ended the unbeaten run of The Blue Boy, which stretched back seven races.

In the most exciting finish of the afternoon, Jamie Osborne and None So Brave matched Peter Scudamore and The Blue Boy stride for stride over the final two furlongs before edging ahead by three-quarters of a length.

Akehurst said: "John Oxx told me he pulls out a bit stiff in the morning, but apart from that he is a really good horse. He has won well and he will now go for the Summit Hurdle at Lingfield next Saturday."

The victory denied Martin Pipe a short-priced double after Arabian Sultan had earlier won the Crownup Winter Novices' Hurdle in typical style.

Scudamore confidently made all and had sufficient reserves up his sleeve to pull away from his struggling rivals after the final hurdle.

By contrast, Clever Shepherd's victory in the Crownup Novices' Chase owed more to a misunderstanding than precise planning. Philip Hobbs had not intended to run his improving six-year-old in the race if Keep Talking, Tim Thomson Jones's impressive novice, took part. "I phoned Tim yesterday and we got our wires crossed. I got the message his was not running, so we left ours in. I would not have run otherwise."

Keep Talking, sent off odds-on, did run but was never jumping well and Clever Shepherd, the 10-1 outsider of four, would not be denied after leading after the final fence.

Blinkers had the desired effect on Bigsun in the P & O Handicap Chase. The 10-year-old jumped properly and

had too much pace for Mr Frisk. "He'll go for the four mile chase at Cheltenham on New Year's Day and then have one run before the Grand National."

New York Rainbow ended the appalling run of bad luck for owner Michael Buckley, stretching back to the death of The Proclamation nearly two years ago, by winning the Marten Julian "National Hunt Guide" Novices' Hurdle.

Hawthorn Blaze, the apple of David Elsworth's eye, ran a cracking first race over timber to finish fourth.

Tim Etherington's excellent run continued when Good Tonic won the opening Crownup Construction Handicap Chase to provide the Dorking trainer with his fifth winner from his last eight runners.

Encouraging response from lawyers on introduction of arbitration blueprint

In-house tribunal proposed for sport

By LOUISE TAYLOR

LITIGATION is costly, time consuming and tends to heighten hostility. Many lawyers agree that a large number of sporting disputes, involving no criminal action, are best kept out of court.

The Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) hopes to achieve this by introducing a British sports arbitration panel. A blueprint for its establishment was published at the conclusion of the conference in Bournemouth yesterday, when the proposal met a positive response from leading lawyers.

Intended to resolve disputes involving British sports bodies and their members, the panel would adjudicate in cases involving disciplinary



BOURNEMOUTH CONFERENCE

rules and procedures, constitutional issues and matters of eligibility and registration.

It would also arbitrate in contractual wrangles between third parties and British sports bodies, providing a conciliation and advisory service.

The panel would thus facilitate quicker, cheaper and more expert resolution of

sports disputes than could be achieved through the courts. The CCPR stresses that before any dispute was taken to arbitration, the internal procedures of the sport concerned would have been exhausted.

Appointed by the CCPR's executive committee, the panel would comprise lawyers expert in sports matters and non-lawyers experienced in sports administration.

Any dispute taken to the panel would be decided by a tribunal of three: one member chosen by the interested parties and the third by the chairman of the CCPR.

Edward Grayson, a leading barrister and author of the book *Sport and the Law*, told the conference that the proposed panel was "an innovative

and essential progression in the world of sport. Judges do not like sport in court and they are often not equipped to deal with it."

Robert Reid QC was another legal champion of the panel, but recognising that sport is "not an hermetically sealed world", he pointed out that there would be occasions when the courts had to become involved. "The panel shouldn't step out of its league and try personal injury cases for example," he said. "We have got to be sensible."

Merely being sensible will not be sufficient for the panel to prove both credible and successful, however.

A spirit of cooperation and commitment is called for. As Charles Woodhouse, the CCPR's legal adviser, said:

"It will not get off the ground unless members of the CCPR want it."

The CCPR's determination to sell the concept of the arbitration panel to its membership — and beyond — is such that panel members would normally be expected to give their services free of charge for dispute of settlement. Exceptions would involve cases of contractual disagreement and specialist advisory work, where costs would be subject to the prior agreement of the parties and their financial circumstances.

By minimising bills, short-cutting formal legal procedures and promoting conciliation rather than conflict, the panel promises great things in terms of damage limitation.

The simple guide to making it in the majors

By DAVID MILLER

WHERE is the Olga Korbut of British archery, the Greg Louganis of volleyball, or the Cassius Clay of canoeing? Speakers for so-called minor sports yesterday told the annual conference of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) that what turns minor into major is the concurrence of star performers and television exposure.

"Well, we know that. Or did we? And is it true? The bottom line in defining so-called

major sports is that they are fundamentally simple in execution, inexpensive to perform and easy to understand. What has and will continue to restrict the audience of rugby, union or league, is that many even players and officials regularly understand the rules, never mind the spectators."

The growth sports under discussion at Bournemouth yesterday were hockey, gymnastics and volleyball: the most spectacular of these in development having been

gymnastics, beginning with the elfin Soviet charmer's appearance on television from Munich at the Olympic Games in 1972. The British Amateur Gymnastics Association now claims, according to John Aikinson, its tactical director, to have 33,500 affiliated schools, 7,500 coaches, and six million badge award holders.

That would suggest that out of every eight people you see on the bus or train, one is a gymnast, which I find hard to believe but never mind the

logistics or semantics. Gymnastics is major. There are 70 exclusive indoor facilities in Britain and, whereas a generation ago it was difficult to fill a potential international class in Britain for 25 competitors, last year there were 400 reaching the final of the most senior competition.

Hockey, of course, has produced its stars, Taylor, Kerly, Dodds and the rest, in the course of winning successive bronze and gold medals at the last two Olympics. In between came the World Cup

of 1986, with 14 hours of exposure by BBC television. By 2000, the Hockey Association hopes there will be 1,000 artificial pitches, the facility that has transformed the sport's accessibility.

Volleyball is still trying to make it in Britain. In 25 years, the sport has grown from 400 clubs to 1,000, but for the moment the glamour remains overseas. The English Volleyball Association has to be content with the long-term project of hosting the 2001 world championships.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

St Joseph's maintain their perfect record

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

ST JOSEPH'S, Ipswich, are enjoying one of their best seasons. They have won all nine games and only twice (against Sudbury Colts, 9-0, and RGS Colchester, 7-0) have they won by fewer than ten points. Their most recent victory was against Gresham's, 13-3, and they have scored 228 points to 34 conceded.

With one match to play, Kelly College have an equally impressive record of 13 wins from 13 matches and 473

points to 59 conceded. Guy Smart, at tight-head prop, has been an outstanding captain and Jonas Hurst, his stand-off half and vice-captain, has played consistently.

Their most recent victory was at Wellington School, 22-3. Durham seem invincible. They overwhelmed St Peter's, York, 60-0 for their thirteenth win from as many matches and now have a testing derby against RGS, Newcastle, and a visit from Millfield in their final match.

King's Taunton, who are also having an excellent sea-

son, found Blundell's in inspired form and lost their unbeaten record, but registered good wins against their neighbours, Queen's, 54-0, and Mousmouth, 16-13.

St Paul's are breaking even with four wins and four defeats. But the biggest score against them was 15-9 in the Harrow match. They are fielding a young side and ten will be available next season.

Wellington College maintained their improved form with a hard-fought win against Cranleigh, 7-6, and a more comfortable victory

against Tonbridge, 29-3. Piers Michell scored 21 points, with three tries, three conversions and a penalty.

Ellesmere contributed nine players to the Shropshire under-19 county side that beat Worcestershire last weekend, 12-6, and Tim Downes, of Ellesmere, kicked two penalties and a conversion. Ellesmere now have ten wins from 12 matches.

RGS, Lancaster recently celebrated their first win at Sedburgh for 20 years. They have won the home fixture three times in this period.

TABLE TENNIS

Chen granted citizenship

CHEN Xinhua, the Rotherham-based former Chinese international who has been representing England for the past 18 months, has been granted British citizenship (Richard Eaton writes).

It comes three-and-a-half years after the former World Cup winner decided to leave Fukien and settle in this country. Ironically, it is given only two days after China said it is blocking Chen's ambition to play in the Olympics. Chen must have the permission of his former country.

CRICKET

Prabhakar and Kapil Dev lead a fightback

Brisbane — India, displaying ability and determination not previously evident on their Australian tour, recovered from 83 for six to reach 239 all out at the close of the first day's play in the first Test match here yesterday.

The team was led from the back rather than the front: Prabhakar and Kapil Dev, batting at eight and seven, lifting the side after the captain, Azharuddin, had perished to a reckless shot as India struggled.

McDermott was the pick of Australia's bowlers, making the early breakthrough, dismissing Kapil Dev and polishing off the tail to pick up five for 54, his seventh five-wicket haul in Tests. Prabhakar, with an unbeaten 54, and Kapil Dev, who made 44, carried the Indians to near-respectability.

McDermott dismissed both openers in an early burst of seven overs at a personal cost of five runs, then Hughes disposed of the dangerous pairing of Manjrekar and Vengsarkar.

That brought Azharuddin together with Tendulkar. The teenager had been told before the match to curb his attacking instincts but was set a poor example by his captain, who top-edged an ill-advised hook off Whitney into Hughes's hands at fine leg.

Whitney followed up by dismissing Tendulkar but Kapil Dev and Prabhakar, in contrasting fashion, took India into three figures. Riding his luck, Kapil Dev lifted Peter Taylor for six as he made his runs off 41 balls before McDermott returned to remove him.

Prabhakar, dropped, surprisingly, by Border when 22, was given valuable assistance by the tail during his 195-minute half-century. It was not the way Border would have liked to celebrate his record 126th Test.

Although Australia hold the advantage, they are not as well-placed as Border might have expected after witnessing the early fruits of winning the toss on a green pitch.

Meanwhile, McDermott has reacted strongly to suggestions that Yorkshire may cancel his contract as their

first overseas player because he is contracted to go with Australia to Sri Lanka on a six-week tour starting in August.

McDermott said: "Yorkshire knew that I had a first obligation to Australia when our agreement was drawn up. Now I have heard on the grapevine that if I have to withdraw at the end of July they will cancel my contract. I will carry out my side of the bargain and I will be upset if they do not stick to their side of the agreement."

"So far I have not heard from them directly but the rumours are flying round that they are ready to withdraw from the contract unless I can play throughout the season. If that happens I shall consult my lawyers."

Cliff Bishop has a back problem and four other players have flu as the West Indians prepared in Perth for the first match of their Australian tour, against a Western Australian Invitation XI at Northern tomorrow.

Deryck Murray, the team manager, said of Bishop: "He had a stress fracture in the back a year ago and had not played any serious cricket until recently. It's obviously very different when he is putting everything into it, as he was in the two recent one-day internationals in Pakistan. We hope his problem is just a little reaction to hard work."

Malcolm Marshall, the fast bowler, and Carl Hooper, the all-rounder, were confined to bed with flu, and the new opening batsman, Phil Wallace, and fast bowler, Anderson Cummins, were also being treated. (Agencies)

INDIA: First innings
R J Sheelvi c Wagh b McDermott 8
R J Sheelvi c Wagh b McDermott 17
S V Manjrekar c and b Hughes 10
D B Vengsarkar c Wagh b Hughes 5
A Azharuddin c Hughes b Whitney 10
S R Tendulkar b Whitney 15
Kapil Dev b McDermott 54
M Prabhakar not out 54
TOTAL 239
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-54, 3-63, 4-83, 5-87, 6-83, 7-141, 8-186, 9-206
AUSTRALIA: First innings
D G Hughes 20, 1-17, 2-34, 3-54, 4-54, 5-54, 6-54, 7-54, 8-54, 9-54
Wagh 1-24, 2-24, 3-24, 4-24, 5-24, 6-24, 7-24, 8-24, 9-24
Taylor 1-24, 2-24, 3-24, 4-24, 5-24, 6-24, 7-24, 8-24, 9-24
McDermott 1-24, 2-24, 3-24, 4-24, 5-24, 6-24, 7-24, 8-24, 9-24
Whitney 1-24, 2-24, 3-24, 4-24, 5-24, 6-24, 7-24, 8-24, 9-24
Extras (b 1, lb 6, nb 13) 20



Hair to the crown: Fahey powering his way into the final of the British Open at Queen's Club yesterday

Howell's challenge ended by Fahey

By Sally Jones

ROBERT Fahey, the talented young Australian professional, finally ended the giant-killing run of Jonathan Howell, the Oratory School professional, in four tense sets to reach the final of the George Wimpey British Open real tennis championship at Queen's Club, London, yesterday.

Howell, who earlier in the week beat Julian Snow, the second seed, and James

Male, the world rackets champion, held two set points in the first set, lost it, and then whitewashed the Australian in the second, playing some of the most powerful and error-free tennis of his life.

The strain of Howell's earlier efforts seemed to take its toll as Fahey found his length on his service and volley-returned, taking the third set 6-3, and although his rapidly-tiring opponent held points for the first three games in the

fourth set, the Australian clinched the vital points and took the set to love.

In the doubles event, Mike Hapell and Male lived dangerously before coming through their opening match, beating Nick Wood and Matthew Hayward in five sets.

Hapell and Male had looked on course for an easy victory after comfortably taking the first two sets, but Wood and Hayward grew in confidence, combining well

and playing more positively as they levelled the match: Woods' classic backhand and Hayward's fine volleying coming into their own. Only in the final set did Hapell and Male get into their stride to achieve an edgy victory.

RESULTS (British unless stated): Singles Semi-finals: R Fahey (Aus) bt J Howell, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0. Double: First round: J Decker (Aus) and P Taylor (Aus) bt J Howell and R K. Shotton, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. M Hapell (Aus) and J Male bt N Wood and M Hayward (Aus), 6-3, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2. C Bray and M Gooding bt D Johnson and H Latham, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3. J Snow and R Fahey (Aus) bt C Lumley (Aus) and A Phillips, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2.

Laura Thompson

Sporting sagas are just the fix for Saturday

The thought of spending Saturday afternoon in shops, or in a cinema, or in any other place that would deprive me of the sight of a television screen, gives me indications of agitation — why? It is not as if I even really watch *Grandstand*. The thing about *Grandstand* is that one does not have to watch it, one only has to have it on. Have it rolling relaxedly in one's ears while one reads the papers; have it in one's eyeline while one is on the phone; just have it there.

There have been many times when I have become bored with the middle bit of *Grandstand* — the dirty sound of motorcycling, the dour-sadden look of St Helens v Featherstone Rovers — and have tried to spend time with the film starring Fred MacMurray on BBC2 or with the 1970s remake of *Lorna Doone* on ITV. It feels like being in exile. It feels like

another world, a world in another dimension, a world which nullifies the here-and-now of *Grandstand* Land.

How can I choose to inhabit this world of another time and place when *Grandstand*, even at its most boring, is existing in the dimension of three o'clock kick-offs, of early goals, of late equalisers, of half-time and full-time? This is not just television, this is a chapter in my life. This weekend will be my 1,436th personal communion with the Saturday episode of the sporting saga, a series which sometimes seems as eternal and inescapable as time itself.

Of course, the sporting saga is not just a co-production of life and television. It can also be a co-production of life and radio. On Saturday afternoons it is not just BBC1, but also Radio 5, that becomes the medium through which the sporting saga expresses itself: becomes the empty, amorphous vessel ready to be filled and shaped by events that are, as with all the best sagas, gloriously unpredictable within their glorious predictability.

There have been too many years spent in living-rooms suffused with that friendly, masculine atmosphere, that tacit statement that this sporting lark is so unquestionably important to all of us that there is no need for any of us to act as if it were important. But one could form bonds of this kind with *Sport on 5*. It answers, both atmospherically and practically, the same desires as *Grandstand*. The medium through which the sporting saga expresses itself appears to be passive and effortless. The work which goes into the

production of this passive and effortless appearance is, however, active and effortful. Take *Sport on 5*. You have presenter John Inverdale, the cool tip of an iceberg which begins to grow into the next-door studio, where you have about eight people working in chaotic symphony with each other. There is of course a vague running order, with certain sacred immovables like the half-time scores, but the nature of live sport and of live broadcasting prohibit the comfort of certainty.

You have a man in charge of checking that all the outside broadcast link-ups are working, which they may not be, which means playing, very quickly, a taped interview instead. You have a man recording precisely timed reports and interviews from the match link-ups. You have a boy playing very quickly these precisely timed reports on a tape machine. You have four

television studios showing different games, you have phones, you have remoteless clocks. More iceberg grows from out of this studio to a mysterious upstairs room which constantly flashes

on to screens bits of paper scrawled with handwritten notes: "Niall Quinn equaliser 2-2", which information Inverdale then conveys. It grows out to the even more mysterious people who inform the upstairs room. It grows out to all the live link-ups who are writing their reports practically as they are speaking them. It grows out to British Telecom, upon whom these link-ups precariously depend.

To someone who once tried to operate a fringe theatre lighting board and was insufficiently despatched of hand and clear of head to click on a tape and push up a switch at the same time, the production of *Sport on 5* seemed bewilderingly dependent upon the thinking-on-feet capabilities of a bewildering array of people. What one hears, what one sees on *Grandstand*, is in deed the tip of an iceberg which symbolises more than just the complexities with the unpredictable.

The events of the sport: CPR saga are different every we, but they are also the same. Leeds and Arsenal may have different players scoring different goals, but they are still Leeds and Arsenal. They are simultaneously actualities and symbols, and somehow nothing better conveys this dual nature than the most familiar part of both *Sport on 5* and *Grandstand*: the classified football results.

CYCLING

Belgian makes defence

By Peter Bryan

RONNY Poel Voorde, the Belgian who trounced an international entry to win last year's City of London open cyclo-cross championship, returns to the Shirley Hills course in Surrey tomorrow to defend his title.

The race, over ten laps of a one-and-a-half mile circuit, has drawn a field of more than 100, although several of Britain's amateur squad will be absent because of an event in northern France.

Voorde's clear-cut victory last year was over David Baker, who is unable to take part because he is recovering from a blood disorder.

The home challenge rests with the former national champion, Steve Douce, who, in 12 years' racing at Shirley Hills has never been placed out of the first three. He has also won the London title twice there.

HOCKEY

Barber recovers to boost Slough

By Sydney Friskin

PAUL Barber, having recovered from a hamstring injury, is back to hit the short corners for Slough in today's Pizza Express National League match at home to Teddington, and in the Hockey Association Cup fourth-round tie against Bromley tomorrow at Edenbridge.

Slough, winners of the cup on four occasions, are hoping for more success with a steadily improving side that is well-equipped in defence and enterprising in attack. There is, however, a doubt about Cox on the left wing: if his knee injury has not healed, his place could be taken by Gillaussein.

Bromley, whose particular zest for cup competition took them to the final in 1989, have no injury problems. Their defence is strengthened by the experience of Richards, their short-corner specialist, at full back, and Berry,

at centre-half. Their attack is led by Chambers, formerly of Gore Court.

Havant, the first division champions and league leaders, face another severe test today with a visit to Slough, but second-placed Hounslow should have a profitable trip to Neston.

Third-placed East Grinstead visit Bromley today. In other cup matches, East Grinstead, Havant and Hounslow, the holders, should reach the fifth round. Isea should retain the leadership of the second division after today's visit to Bourne-mouth. But Reading, their closest rivals, could find life difficult at home against Canterbury. Before the match, a minute's silence will be observed in memory of Dominic Moon, aged 18, of Canterbury, who was killed in a road accident on his way to training on Tuesday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Castleford to test Leeds

By Keith Macklin

LEEDS and Wigan have something to prove in the quarter-finals of the Regal Trophy this weekend. Leeds, who are at home to Castleford, have to prove that they can remain a winning side without the influence of Ellery Hanley, whose broken jaw could mean the difference between success and failure for the club.

Even when Hanley is not playing well, his determination and personality are driving forces which inspire the team. Castleford will be pleased that he will not face them tomorrow and may also feel that his absence will give them a marginal advantage.

Wigan's challenge is to prove that they have pulled themselves together following their recent run of three defeats, one of which was 25-10 at The Willows against Salford. They play the same opponents at the same ground this afternoon, and with several key players expected to return after injury, principal

among them Botica, the much-missed goalkicker, Wigan have the opportunity to settle the account and to resume their familiar all-conquering status.

However, Salford have shown remarkable improvement since the start of the season, when their form suggested they might be candidates for relegation. Kevin Tamari, the coach, has shaken

en the side up and has dropped Kerry, last season's record points scorer. Salford are showing flair and confidence, the pack has knitted together and Wigan may not find it easy to exact revenge. It could also be said that Featherstone Rovers have a deal to prove at Widnes.

Recent matches have tended to produce runaway victories for Widnes. Last weekend, Featherstone slaughtered Halifax, scoring more than 60 points, and if they produce that kind of form tomorrow, they will give Widnes a run for their money.

St Helens are at home to Bradford Northern, who they beat easily earlier in the season. However, that was when Northern were at a low ebb and under the player-coach, David Hobbs. Hobbs can now concentrate on leading a pack that is coached and inspired by Peter Fox, who is back in charge at Odsal and already making Northern tick.



Botica: boost for Wigan

BADMINTON

Smith stays on course

FIONA Smith, who won three gold medals at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, showed that she is beginning to return to form, after taking a year out to have a baby, by reaching the quarter-finals of the Carlton Welsh open championship in Cardiff yesterday. She had straight-game victories over Jenny Allen, from Scotland, and Sian Deng, from Canada.

Smith was assisted in her bid to regain the title she won two years ago by the defeat in her quarter of Felicity Gallup, the England No. 3, 11-0, 11-0 by Nicole Baldewein, of Germany.

Another German, the more

experienced Katrin Schmidt, upset the seedings by bringing down the English national champion, Julie Bradbury.

Tuavao moves
Bob Tuavao, the former Widnes, Salford and Barrow rugby league forward has signed for the third division club, Highfield, until the end of this season.

Bera doubles up
Richard Sam Bera collected gold medals in the 100 and 200 metres freestyle swimming events, making 48 in all for Indonesia so far in the South East Asian Games. Indonesian swimmers won

SWIMMING

Confidence returns in quick time for Foot

By Craig Lord

CAROLINE Foot returned to form at the Ecclesiastical Life Open meeting at Gloucester yesterday, showing for the first time since switching clubs last summer that she is capable of retaining her British grand prix butterfly title.

The superior sprinting ability of Foot, now training at the superb Ponds Forge sports complex in Sheffield and competing for that city's team, proved too much for her younger rivals. Emma Lang and Sara Dykes, in the 200 metres butterfly, Victory brought maximum

grand prix points in a time, 2min 20.24sec, that lifted Foot's spirits after her failure to qualify for last year's European championships. Since then, she has travelled north from Southampton to train at Sheffield under her long-time mentor, Paddy Garrett.

RESULTS: Men: 100m breaststroke: 1, S McKean (City of Cardiff), 1:08.24; 2, S Wain (Northwich Polesport), 1:13.52; 3, M Dixon (Rochford), 1:16.45; 1,500m freestyle: 1, N Sloan (Petersborough), 16m 17.70sec; 2, M Haynes (Gloucester), 16:21.45; 3, D Smith (Borough of Waltham Forest), 16:31.13; Women: 200m butterfly: 1, C Foot (City of Sheffield), 2:20.24; 2, E Lang (Polesport), 2:20.77; 3, S Dykes (City of Bristol), 2:21.97; 200m individual medley: 1, L Finch (Bally College), 2:17.34; 2, J Dapkins (Gloucester), 2:21.42; 3, A Sasaki (City of Cardiff), 2:21.69.

MOTOR SPORT

Gollop repairs damage in time for grand prix

By Stephen Slater

WILL Gollop lines up for the Autoglass British rally-cross grand prix at Brands Hatch this weekend just seven weeks after his turbo-charged MG Metro 6R4 was destroyed in an accident.

Gollop, the British champion, won the grand prix in 1988 and 1989, but he and his team have been forced to spend over 600 man-hours rebuilding the four-wheel drive "supercar" from the wheels upward after an accident it was travelling at 100mph in the European championship round at Lydden Hill in Kent in September.

The first test for Gollop's new car will be the qualifying runs today as he aims to become the first three-time winner of the grand prix. On Sunday, he will face a series of quarter and semi-finals before competing with some of the most powerful cars in Europe.

Most of the cars were initially developed from rally cars, but are now specially suited to the short sprint races of rally-cross.

BMA repeats brain damage warning

By Srikanth Sen
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE British Medical Association (BMA) gave the old punchbag — boxing — a new twist yesterday. There were no new moves, however, as the BMA is in the process of compiling its second report on the sport.

Because of developments within the sport and advances in the medical field, the report will examine new medical evidence from the last seven years. Yet the old statistics were impressive all the same. It made you wonder about the validity of a sport that causes brain damage regardless of whether the

boxer complains about any ill-effects after a bout. Recent evidence indicates that head injuries causing "neuronal shearing" can cause Alzheimer's disease.

From 1989 to 1991, six British boxers were seriously injured — Rod Douglas, Mark Gault, Gary Mason, Frank Bruno, Michael Watson and Kian Kwok Lee. "Every time a boxer receives a heavy blow, he receives brain damage," Jason Brice, the consultant neurosurgeon at Southampton hospital, said. "Bruno's punch is like a padded sledgehammer hitting you at 20mph. That must give rise to brain damage."

Instead of laying into the

sport following the serious head injuries suffered by Watson and Lee, the BMA boxed clever, leaving it to the debate in the House of Lords on Wednesday to land the blow. The bill, which has been sponsored by Lord Taylor of Gryffe, aims to make it an offence to organise a boxing match for profit.

"It doesn't go as far as we would like, as we have campaigned for a ban on boxing, both amateur and professional, since 1984, but certainly we support it," Jeffrey Cundy, consultant anaesthetist at Lewisham hospital and a member of the BMA working party on boxing, said.

The new eight-point safety

plan of the British Boxing Board of Control, which ensures that a struck boxer reaches a neuro-surgical unit without delay, has clearly been a move in the right direction. It was welcomed by the BMA. But Dr Cundy said it did little to stop injuries happening in the first place.

"Though we welcome anything which reduces harm to the boxer, and further damage can be reduced by rapid transit to hospital, it can do nothing to stop the initial injury," he said. "Blows to the head damage the brain and the damage is cumulative. The only way to make boxing safe is to remove the head from the target area."

Champions' discipline again comes under fire

Three Arsenal players to be charged by FA

By Clive White

THE players of Arsenal, the Football League champions, were again in trouble with authority yesterday when the Football Association announced that Ian Wright, David Seaman and Paul Merson were to be charged with misconduct following alleged incidents at a first division match against Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park on November 16.

The FA's action came just as George Graham, the Arsenal manager, was preparing his players for tomorrow's important north London derby against Tottenham Hotspur at Highbury. He strongly advised all three to seek the assistance of Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, which they have done.

The FA has taken its decision following the receipt at Lancaster Gate of reports, sent by the Greater Manchester police, concerning alleged incidents during and after the match at Boundary Park. The FA also viewed a video film of the incidents which allegedly involved players and supporters spitting at one another, gesticulations by players and problems with police in the tunnel area.

David Bloomfield, the FA secretary, said: "We have an excellent working relationship with the police and they are quite happy for us to deal with the incident within football."

The players are facing suspension and fines, but the FA

have made it clear that the club is not facing the kind of admonishment that it did last season when the FA docked Arsenal 10 points and fined them £50,000 following a brawl between their players and those of Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Graham and Taylor expressed their concern for football's spitting image. "This is happening regularly now," Graham said. "The players must ask the PFA what is their line on players being spat at."

Taylor said that the PFA would not condone spitting under any circumstances. "No matter what the provocation," he added. "But, of course, it's easy to say that in the cold light of day. I'm not condoning any reaction from players, although eye-witnesses apparently indicate there may have been physical and verbal abuse of players."

The charges involving



Wright: late equaliser

Merson and Seaman had surprised Taylor. "Our information is that Seaman and Merson were simply taking people away from bother."

Some reports suggested that Wright, the club's record £2.5 million signing, and Merson both made provocative gestures to the Oldham supporters at the final whistle following Wright's late equaliser in the 1-1 draw. Wright was also reportedly involved in the spitting, while Seaman is alleged to have manhandled a police officer.

The club has had more than its fair share of brushes with authority in recent years. In 1989, it was fined £20,000 by the FA for its part in another brawl, this time at Highbury, in a match involving Norwich City. Paul Davis, the Arsenal midfielder, was suspended for nine matches after he was spotted on video striking Glenn Cockerill, of Southampton, and breaking the player's jaw.

The players in question have 14 days in which to appeal. Ken Friar, the club secretary, said: "I was not at the match and we will want to look at a video of it before deciding whether or not to appeal."

Paul Walsh will take the place of Gary Lineker in the Tottenham side for the derby match. Lineker has been given leave of absence because his eight-week-old son is seriously ill in hospital.

Bright shines on, page 35

England bid for Europe

By Clive White

ENGLAND yesterday officially launched their bid to stage the finals of the 1996 European football championship. Glenn Hoddle, an FA official, flew to Switzerland to lodge the application papers with UEFA before today's deadline. The decision on the hosts will be made next May.

England face competition from The Netherlands and Spain and, if successful,

which seem certain to go to France. England did not go through with their full presentation.

To coincide with the European bid, the FA has taken out full-page advertisements in the national press today asking for the public's support. Under the slogan, "It can only happen in England", the FA offered those lending their support the chance to enter a free draw for tickets for the England v Brazil game at Wembley on May 17 next year. The FA was not giving much away, though — just 12 tickets.

Only Spain out of the three candidates have staged the finals of a European championship. That was in 1964 when the host country went on to beat the Soviet Union 2-1 in the final in Madrid. France and Italy have both staged it twice. Spain have also staged the finals of a World Cup more recently than England have done. The Netherlands have never staged any important championship.

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Leconte shows virtuoso style

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN LYONS

HENRI Leconte has always relished the big stage and they came no bigger than the home final of a Davis Cup in front of 8,300 fanatical supporters. Even allowing for that and the unique spirit of team competition, Leconte's 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 win over Pete Sampras, to leave France level on the opening day of the final here yesterday, owed more to fantasy than reality.

While Guy Forget, his countryman, seemed stifled by the torrent of noise that poured from a fanatical crowd, Leconte took inspiration effortlessly leaping the 155-place gap in the ranking between himself and Sampras, the world No. 6. The scoreline — France 1, United States 1 — was not perhaps surprising, but the manner of it quite extraordinary.

Leconte had played just one match on the full tour since Wimbledon and had only recently recovered from a back injury, which many thought would end his career. Only his former team-mate and Davis Cup captain, Yannick Noah, kept the faith and his gamble, more hunch than logic, paid off handsomely as Leconte reduced the recent ATP Tour champion to a knee-trembling wreck on his debut.

Sampras had been warned about the special atmosphere of the Davis Cup, but few could have undergone such a severe baptism. From the first point to the last, the Frenchman held sway, forehands, backhands and volleys coming alike in a 2hr 20min display of virtuosity he had not shown for many years.

It was clear some magic was about as early as the third game when Leconte broke the American to take a 2-1 lead. Sampras, though, answered back immediately but when he dropped his serve for the second time Leconte held his nerve and took the first set.

Sampras badly needed time to settle himself in his first Davis Cup and as serve matched serve through the second set, it seemed a matter of time before Leconte, so short of match practice, ran out of puff. But a timely break when Sampras missed a routine backhand pass in the eleventh game of the second set, brought the crowd near to ecstasy and gave the French No. 2 a new lease of life.

By now, the umpire, Sultan Ganji, had virtually given up trying to silence the crowd and Sampras, visibly upset by the long delays between points, must have felt like a bull in the ring. Sure enough, the final kill came when he netted a backhand service return in the ninth game of the third set and Leconte, amid scenes reminiscent of the last night of the Proms, leapt into the arms of his captain and team as he swept away the final forehand.

All pre-match forecasts of a French upset — and there were a few optimistic souls —



In with a shout: Leconte finds inspiration against Sampras in Lyons yesterday

had relied on Forget beating Andre Agassi in the opening singles. But, not for the first time in his career, the French No. 1 seemed weighed down rather than uplifted by the support.

He has never felt as comfortable in the spotlight as those two incorrigible extroverts, Noah and Leconte, and clearly felt the pressure.

though, oddly, only after he had won a tight first set, 9-7 in the tie-break. That, you felt, might turn the match. It did. Agassi never looked back.

The first set lasted 76 minutes, the next three were over in just over an hour and a half as the American pulled Forget hither and thither, forcing errors on the ground strokes

and passing him whenever he ventured to the net. In the end, Forget could not even hide behind his much-vaunted service, which Agassi picked off with increasing venom amid a stunned silence.

A lucky net cord on break point early in the second set coincided with a natural let-down after the tension of the tie-break and gave Agassi just the glimpse he needed. From 4-2 up in the second set, the multi-coloured American won eight of the next nine games and any lingering hope for Forget was snuffed out in the fifth game of the fourth set when Agassi broke once more.

"He was the master on the court. It was not pressure from the crowd, he just played better and better as the match went on and I couldn't catch him any more," Forget said.

RESULTS (US men's first): A Agassi to G Forget, 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2; P Sampras to H Leconte, 4-6, 5-7, 4-6.

Ivanisevic withdraws

Johannesburg — Goran Ivanisevic, of Yugoslavia, withdrew yesterday from the South African Open and from next week's European Community tennis championship with an Achilles tendon injury, organisers said.

Ivanisevic, seeded second in the open, beat Pat Cash, on Thursday and was due to play Grant Connell, of Canada, in the quarter-finals yesterday. But the nagging injury, which plagued him in the opening rounds, forced him to default to Connell. "My doctor told me I would have to rest it," Ivanisevic said.

Ivanisevic, holder of the EC title, will be replaced in Brussels by Jonas Svensson, of Sweden, who faces the Spaniard, Emilio Sanchez, in the first round of the tournament, which starts on Monday. Stefan Edberg will play if he is fit.

Where to find the next Eddie Edwards

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

THIS column has always believed in looking up at the stars in the sky. There will be no British ski jumpers at the Winter Olympics in Albertville in the new year. The trail blazed by the incomparable Eddie Edwards has gone cold: the victory of Victory over Struggle is complete. The British Olympic Association decided to insist on high standards of achievement for its competitors in the wake of Eddie's fall.

But all is not lost in the wonderful world of British ski-jumping. Tim Ashburner, the father of the sport in Britain, is organising a lowlanders' world championship at Isny in Germany from February 29 to March 8. That will put the Albertville nonsense in perspective all right. It will involve cross-country skiing and ski jumping, with individual titles at stake in both parts of the combination.

Britain waits agog for the Eddie Edwards of tomorrow, but so far it has waited in vain. Brits have stepped for-

ward — "but most of them are A-habs" who see the great white ski jump as something to be conquered. Ashburner said: "Their first sight of the real thing comes as a shock. It is this type we want to weed out."

However, if you can put together some measure of (a) competence and (b) insurance, apply for the competition to British Ski Federation, 258 Main Street, East Calder, West Lothian, EH53 0EE. British ski jumping must not die.

Poor old Leo Najera. He was preparing to swim the anchor leg in the 4 x 100 metres medley relay for the Philippines at the South East Asian Games in Manila this week when someone kindly pointed out that he had a three-inch rip in the

back of his cozzie. So he slipped away, found another pair of trunks, and after that everything went, well, swimmingly. Najera did his stuff, and the Filipinos won the race. But then came a protest from the Singapore side, which finished third. They accused Najera of causing "an undue delay" of ten minutes while he changed his drawers. The judges agreed with them. The Indonesians were promoted from second to first, the Singaporeans from third to second and as for the Filipinos — they were disqualified and placed bottom.

Safely hidden David Bedford, athletics person and bearer of one of the great times, is not someone who seems a soft touch. But his car was stolen. Then, while he was away in Tokyo at the world championships, his motorbike was stolen — a sad blow, since it was an 1,100cc Kawasaki lovingly described

by Bedford as "the business". He was burgled last Christmas, and, after that, he got worried about one of the measures they did not take, a plaque commemorating his 10,000 metres world record. So he hid it. The great question is: where? "I've sat in every room and tried to picture what I did," he said, "but it won't come back." Some men are born to trouble, some seek trouble, others have trouble thrust upon them. Bedford has always been able to fill all three categories.



Edwards: incomparable

Pay the penalty

I don't know why Margaret Thatcher tried to stamp out football: football is perfectly capable of doing it on its own. The introduction of filthy penalties to the FA Cup removes vast quantities of magic from a traditionally magical competition. On Wednesday, BBC's *Sportsworld* celebrated an A to Z of penalties in recognition of this disaster. C is for the Corinthians who deliberately shot wide because they thought scoring from a penalty was cowardly; E is for the elephant which kept goal in a penalty competition against four Leicester City players in 1898; and R is for Red Star Belgrade, who won last season's European Cup on filthy penalties and admitted their tactic all along had been to hold on and try their luck in the shoot-out. Penalty shoot-outs ruined the last World Cup. Penalty shoot-outs ruin everything they touch.

Mansell's prize

White off to a flying start

By Phil Yates

JIMMY White, who relishes a long-distance encounter with Stephen Hendry, dominated the first session of their best-of-17-frame snooker semi-final in the £200,000 UK Open at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday.

White, the world No. 3, was at his fluent best on the way to building a 7-1 lead in 112 minutes. It left Hendry needing to win eight of the remaining nine frames to retain an unbeaten record in the event since 1988.

In December 1990, White led Hendry 7-2 in the world matchplay final and went on to an 18-9 victory. Three weeks later, he led Hendry 9-0 after the first session of the Mercantile Credit Classic final, running out a 10-4 winner. Hendry, the world No. 1, did not make the assured start necessary to banish those memories. White, with two breaks of 46, both launched by long reds, won the first two frames.

White, a UK finalist only once in 11 attempts, pressed on with runs of 52 and 30 in the third frame and a brown to black clearance in the next for a 4-0 lead at the intermission. Such was the intensity of White's concentration in the fifth frame that he felt it necessary to ask the referee, Lawrie Ammandale, to quell the noise from the crowd watching the other table, who were awaiting the return of the other semi-finalists, John Parrott and James Wattana.

When Ammandale had restored silence, White fashioned a decisive break of 67. Hendry pulled back from 5-5 down in the sixth frame only to miss, by some distance, the kind of long pot on the green which is usually little more than a formality. White made no mistakes, clearing to black for 6-0.

By recovering from deficits of 7-0 and 8-2 to beat Mike Hallett in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters in February, Hendry performed well in acutely difficult circumstances. He exhibited this invaluable asset again in the seventh frame with a break of 130, which would have been a total clearance of 137 had he not screwed the cue ball into the top left-hand pocket after potting the black.

White, with a well executed 64 break, struck back to re-open a six-frame cushion.

Parrott, the world champion, made four breaks over 40 to lead James Wattana, the Thai, aged 21, 4-2. However, Wattana, seeking his first appearance in the final of a ranking event in Britain, capitalised on a missed red from Parrott to take the seventh frame with a 39 clearance to pink and a run of 64 was sufficient for him to tie the scores at 4-4 at the conclusion of play.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: J Parrott (Eng) beats J Wattana (Tha) 4-2; P Parrott (Eng) beats S Hendry (Sco) 7-1; J White (Eng) beats J Wattana (Tha) 4-2; J White (Eng) beats S Hendry (Sco) 7-1.

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